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Committee Wants Say in Village Project

Mattapoisett Tree Committee

By Marilou Newell

The December 12 meeting of the Mattapoisett Tree Committee primarily dealt with one rather major project, the total updating of roadways throughout the village district that includes Main, Water and Beacon Streets and (old) Marion Road.

The project is currently undergoing final changes to achieve 25% design. It is at least the third major update that the project has undergone since it began its journey in 2015 – a quest for grant funding estimated recently at $8,800,000. The town applied for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funding, a combination grant from state and federal sources, in the hope of being placed on the 2026 distribution. Weighing in the balance, however, is a plan that the town's people will support.

Headed up by the engineering group VHB, the project has been discussed at several public meetings over the years, mostly in concert with the Select Board. Tree Committee members took a special interest in the project, given growing concern over the number of trees that planners determined need to be removed. In some cases, a tree needed to be removed for state compliance and in other cases to allow for the construction of sidewalks, it was explained. As of December 12, the number of trees slated for removal stood at 26.

On this night, all that history and new requests for more substantive involvement between VHB and the Tree Committee was aired.

Town Administrator Mike Lorenco made the case for moving forward with the project now, while state and federal grant monies are available. If a 25% design can be achieved now, the town could plan on being placed on the money ladder for the 2026 TIP distribution. If the town waivers much longer, it would slide down that ladder. Mattapoisett, he contended, needs to be shovel ready now.

Tree Committee and Select Board member Jodi Bauer agreed that losing trees would be a blow but believes that for the future generations and for safety's sake, some trees would have to come down.

Lorenco said that utility poles and ADA requirements make it necessary to provide adequate space and that large trees with wide canopies make that difficult. Bauer advocated for the placement of new sidewalks along the southside of Water Street. All sidewalks currently in place would remain, and new sidewalks would replace footpaths.

Speaking as both a Tree Committee and Planning Board member was William Wennerberg, who stated plainly that he was in favor of moving forward with the current plan and, when asked, made it clear that the Planning Board would not have oversight for trees that will be removed in this project, given that it is a municipal project superseding the board's approval.

On the Cover: *Playing the "Frozen" character Elsa of Arendelle, Bea Ashley is joined by Ayvia DaSilva, left, and Sophia Lyndon during Old Colony Regional Vocational-Technical High School's Winter Wonderland event hosted Friday by the Rochester-based school's National Honor Society members. Children of all ages met and were photographed with Santa and Elsa, while others pinned the nose on Rudolph, made ornaments and enjoyed eating yummy treats. Photo by Marilou Newell*

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Tree Committee Chairman Sandy Hering asked if each tree could be brought before the Planning Board in an individual hearing format; Wennerberg did not think that would be applicable.

Hering made the point that although the Tree Committee had attended public meetings in this matter, suggestions made by the committee did not appear to be incorporated in the planning done by VHB. She asked several times for a meeting between VHB and the committee. She noted that a July 2022 presentation by the committee that made suggestions regarding trees didn't seem to make it into the plans. Yet the plan does include the planting of some 31 new trees.

Wennerberg commented that removing the trees, "…won't feel good," but having walkable sidewalks is important.

Earlier in the meeting, Lorenco stated that the current project estimate of $8,800,000 (if financed by the town) would mean that taxes would climb an additional $3,300, taking 15 years to pay off. Lorenco shared that a public hearing on the project will be posted after comments are received from MassDOT on the 25% design. He also noted that the majority of issues that the state agency is reviewing are for utilities.

Regarding utilities, Carlos DaSouza (Marine Advisory Board member and retired engineer) once again broached the topic of placing utilities underground. During at least two public meetings on this road project, he has suggested that the town approach Eversource about a utilities upgrade, placing it inside underground conduits, thereby eliminating the need to remove so much of the town's remaining tree canopy.

"They laughed in our face," both Lorenco and Bauer stated when such a plan was raised for Eversource's consideration. Cost prohibitions, Lorenco stated, were classified by the utility as "exuberant."

Lorenco said that plans are and have been available for viewing at Town Hall, but Tree Committee member Mike Immel wanted to know, "how can we work more and better with the Select Board?" Lorenco said he would let the board know of the committee's request.

Wennerberg summed up the need for the project

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to move forward this way: "We need safe walkable streets. This is an opportunity to made improvements for the future. There will be additional trees, but the right trees. The future (generations) will be left with a bio-diverse tree canopy. Trees will be placed where they won't conflict." Hering responded, "We did that, and it fell on deaf ears. Those old oaks will be missed."

The scope of the project is nothing short of immense. The Highway Department's role cannot be overstated and will include new EPA-compliant drainage. The Water/Sewer Department also plays a key role regarding new water mains and improved sewers that are currently not part of village road project.

And, not to put too fine a point on all that was shared, Lorenco talked about the $130,000,000 worth of capital projects currently listed on the town's 10-year plan and the $35,000,000 of debt the town is currently carrying.

Hering concluded the two-hour meeting, saying, "we know there will be trees lost, but the Tree Committee hasn't been informed by VHB on new technology to protect trees and planting new trees with protection,

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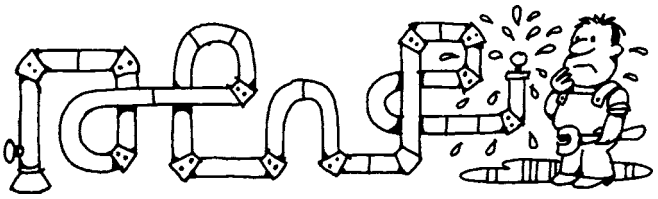

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specifications and best practices. Can we work with the arborist?" Lorenco said he would talk to VHB.

Becoming an Artist

Thoughts on...

By Dick Morgado

People ask me where ideas for columns come from and how I became a writer. I always say, the former is a mystery, and the latter was sheer luck. It's true. I recall I wrote a letter to the editor, then another and another and one day one appeared on the Op-ed page with my name above the story, not below it. A week later a check arrived. That certainly was an incentive to write so I continued to do so. The checks continued to arrive, and the rest is history.

First and foremost, though, I am an artist. I *do* now how that happened. I first became interested in art watching my father sitting in his easy chair doodling and sketching. He called his drawings "etchings." I still have them. Years later, after he passed away, we found his Center School junior high yearbook, and his ambition was to be a commercial artist. I guess his dream was fulfilled through me.

We lived in the city for a time when I was little. Every summer a sign painter would come to paint a new Sunbeam Bread advertising mural on the entire side wall of the variety store around the corner from our house. I was fascinated by how he brought "Little Miss Sunshine" to life, beaming away as she ate a slice of buttered bread. The sign painter would take a week to complete the sign, and I would be right there every day sitting on the hydrant watching him. Not very comfortable in hindsight, but one must suffer for their art.

It wasn't long before television came into my world. It would change everything.

The TV was a huge piece of furniture, a wood cabinet with a tiny, 12-inch, black-and-white screen with a whole bunch of glass tubes in the back. My favorite show was a cartoon that came on every Saturday morning. "Winky Dink and You" aired at 10:30 am, which would delay any outside play.

In a clever marketing ploy, you could send away, at a small cost of course, for a kit that included some crayons and a clear plastic sheet that would stick to the TV screen. Winky Dink would go on some sort of an adventure, and if he had to cross a river, for example, you would draw a bridge with the crayon on the sheet so he could cross. That was right in my wheelhouse!

The television brought me in touch with another fellow named Jon Nagy.

Nagy was an artist who became known as America's first television drawing instructor. I watched his show religiously. He would draw a scene ... maybe a tree and a fence or an old barn ... and I would try to copy it, following his instructions. He wrote a book "Learn to Draw" with a kit, which I begged my mom to buy, which she did, that contained everything a budding artist needed. It had a sketch book, pencils of different hardnesses, a gum eraser, some charcoal sticks and a small piece of sandpaper to sharpen your pencils. My life as an artist had begun!

School beckoned and I looked forward to going every day. Mrs. Hathaway was my teacher. I don't remember much about her, but I do remember that we got to draw a lot. At Thanksgiving, she would read us stories of the Pilgrims and show us pictures, then we would create a mural on brown paper that she would hang over one wall of the classroom.

We would draw or paint Pilgrims, the men with buckles on their tall black hats and shoes and the women

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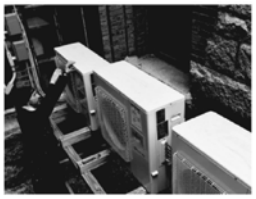

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with their bonnets and white aprons, along with Indians, turkeys and the Mayflower on manila drawing paper, then cut them out and glue them to the paper with white paste. Of course, someone would always eat the paste (me) and be scolded by Mrs. Hathaway (me.)

School was a long walk from our house. About halfway home there was a house with a sign hanging on a post by the sidewalk that read "Commercial Artist." Every day I would sit on the curb across the street, waiting for the artist to come out, because I wanted to see what a real, live artist looked like. He never did.

In high school I took as many art courses as possible. When it was time for college, I knew exactly what I wanted to be. I prepared a portfolio that showed my versatility in a variety of mediums. I was such a hick that when I first saw the school's catalogue, I assumed the photo on the cover was of a stately building that looked like a castle. I thought it was nestled on a nice campus on a quiet, tree-lined street.

I took a bus to Boston and a cab to the school. To my surprise the "castle" was on the corner of a busy city street, no campus, no trees. Across the street was the future home of Boston Children's Hospital. On the other side of the building was the massive Beth Israel Hospital. Not exactly suburbia.

In those days, an applicant had to take a drawing test. I passed and here I am.

Being a writer and an artist are not much

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different. They are both creative activities, but writing is something I do, being an artist is something I am. So, I'll be taking some time off to enjoy the holidays and do a painting or two.

As they say in the movies ... I'llllll be back!

Happy Holidays.

Editor's note: Mattapoisett resident Dick Morgado is an artist and retired newspaper columnist whose musings are, after some years, back in The Wanderer under the subtitle "Thoughts on …." Morgado's opinions have also appeared for many years in daily newspapers around Boston.

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Cannabis: Panacea or Poison?

What Does The Doctor Say?

By Dr. Ed Hoffer

First, some vocabulary. Cannabis is synonymous with marijuana and refers to a plant, the chemicals in the plant and products derived from the plant. THC, tetrahydrocannabinol, is the primary psychoactive compound in cannabis. Cannabidiol (CBD) is also psychoactive but does not have the euphoric effect of THC. CBD sold is usually derived directly from the hemp plant, a cousin of marijuana, or manufactured in a laboratory. The cannabis plant contains more than 500 chemicals, many not well understood.

Cannabis use has increased dramatically over the past decade. Once illegal throughout the U.S., cannabis is now legal for medical use in 38 states and the District of Columbia and for recreational use in 24 states and D.C. A Gallup poll in 2019 found that 14% of adults had used cannabis during the preceding year and a 2021 survey found this had increased to 21%.

Seniors are the group who are increasing their use most rapidly. In 2007, only about 0.4% of people age 65 and older in the United States reported using cannabis in the past year. That number rose to almost 3% by 2016, and in 2022 it was over 8%.

Another group who use cannabis heavily are those with cancer. A recent survey of cancer survivors found that almost half were current or past users.

What are the benefits of cannabis?

Because cannabis is still classed at the federal level as "Class 1" – a drug with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse (along with heroin and LSD) – it is hard to do research into its medical benefits. Much of what we know comes from observations rather than controlled trials.

Granting that the evidence is soft, cannabis seems to help reduce chemotherapy-induced nausea. It also has antiseizure effects and has been used in patients with epilepsy not responding well to traditional drugs. It can be useful in reducing pain in chronic pain sufferers and may be a welcome alternative to narcotics. Patients with multiple sclerosis report less spasticity and pain. Finally,

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patients with inflammatory bowel diseases report better quality of life with cannabis use. It may be useful in treating insomnia.

The downsides are numerous. Inhaled cannabis, the most common way it is used, has adverse effects on the lungs similar to the effects of tobacco smoking. While THC acutely dilates airways, chronic use makes asthma worse. Several asthma deaths have been linked to inhalation of marijuana. Inhaled cannabis increases the risk of lung cancer.

Recent reports at a national cardiology conference found increased risk of heart attacks, strokes and congestive heart failure in regular cannabis users. Women who use cannabis during pregnancy have a 25% increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes.

Some regular cannabis users develop severe vomiting, requiring hospitalization and IV fluids.

Cannabis impairs driving ability and is clearly linked to increased motor vehicle accidents, though it is not nearly as bad as alcohol in this regard.

While many or most users are looking for the relaxation effect of cannabis, psychiatric side-effects including panic attacks and psychosis are common. Psychiatric problems are particularly common in adolescents, and there is good evidence that cannabis use by young people interferes with brain development.

Bottom line: If you have a problem that is not responding to traditional medication, cannabis may help, but its use comes with risk. Adolescents and young adults should not use cannabis, nor should pregnant women. No one should use cannabis before driving or doing other risky things requiring alertness.

Dr. Ed Hoffer is the chairman of the Marion Board of Health, a graduate of MIT and Harvard Medical School. He is Associate Professor of Medicine, part-time, at Harvard and a Senior Scientist at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Teamwork Helped Weather Storm

Marion Select Board

By Mick Colageo

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eventually made the Silvershell Beach parking lot look like … Silvershell Beach itself at very high tide.

In reporting to the Marion Select Board during Tuesday night's public meeting, Town Administrator Geoff Gorman was thrilled to discuss the team approach led by Fire Chief Brian Jackvony and Police Chief Richard Nighelli, whom he said were "proactively involved" in reaching out to everyone in town with updates, including businesses affected by the weather.

"When it hit yesterday morning … the DPW had been on the road from early in the morning," said Gorman, describing the Department of Public Works' efforts to rake out catch basins to prevent localized flooding and assorted other measures.

Gorman further stated that the town received emails from Eversource explaining the utility company's plans and response times.

An "e-blast" was sent out to residents, and the storm was estimated to have peaked at 11:00 am. Approximately an hour from high tide, coastal-access areas such as Silvershell Beach, Island Wharf and Old Landing were flooded. A pier broke away from Old Landing, and a downed power line closed a section of Front Street at Ryder Road.

The DPW collected three or four truckloads of downed branches, according to Gorman.

The town kept Silvershell beach shut down into Tuesday, while 333 homes had lost power as of Tuesday

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morning. By Tuesday afternoon, almost all residences were back online.

Unrelated and not on Tuesday's agenda, therefore not discussed in accordance with the state's Open Meeting Law, the Town of Marion sent out a press release Tuesday afternoon, informing residents that Aucoot Cove has been temporarily closed after elevated levels of bacteria were discovered.

According to the release, a spike in levels of fecal coliform was detected by the town's Wastewater Treatment Plant during routine testing on December 12. The results, received on December 15, came as a surprise following a December 11 sample indicating levels well within state-required limits.

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The state's Division of Marine Fisheries recommended that Aucoot Cove remain closed for 21 days as a precautionary measure. New test samples were to be taken on Tuesday and Wednesday as part of an ongoing investigation into the source of the fecal coliform.

Gorman confirmed after the meeting that the Aucoot Cove situation was not discussed publicly because the agenda had been set, rendering any discussion during public session unlawful.

Fencing at the perimeter of the construction site of the new Maritime Center was scheduled to go up on Wednesday, as site manager Bob Grillo (Marion's building commissioner) and his project team prepare to initiate site preparation beginning on December 27.

Gorman is the liaison with the state's Seaport Economic Council, the granting agency supplying the bulk of the financing. He said the SEC has requested a groundbreaking event be scheduled.

"They're very excited about this project," said Gorman.

"I have mixed feelings about making a big deal out of all this," said Select Board Chairman Toby Burr, especially upon hearing about large plaques with town officials on the building. Burr said he prefers honoring the late George A. Jennings, Marion's longest serving harbormaster (1986-99.)

Gorman said he would investigate the details of the SEC's expectations for the new harbormaster headquarters. He anticipates a standing sign entering Island Wharf that recognized the SEC and the Town of Marion.

In updating the new DPW construction at Benson Brook, Gorman reported that Marion Facilities Manager Shaun Cormier and his team continue to identify items in the budget that can be moved internally. The deadline is April 1 for the opening of construction bids. Gorman said the next step is to review the bid package.

"What's keeping us right now is we don't want to put anything out to bid that we can do ourselves. Most of the time bids are good for only 30 days. Shaun will know within a week," he said.

The Town House Conference Room is now open to support public meetings. Gorman instructed the public to reach out to Executive Assistant Donna Hemphill to request use of the room, which is intended only for in-person meetings, not hybrid meetings where people can attend remotely.

Gorman is looking to getting the Town House "fobbed," which would greatly improve security as well as convenience for town employees.

Town offices will close at 11:30 am on two Fridays, December 22 and December 29 and be closed altogether on consecutive Mondays, December 25 and January 1.

Citing the work done by Meghan Davis and Jody Dickerson of the Marion DPW, the town and contractor P.J. Keating are recipients of the National

Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) 2023 Quality in Construction Award.

Marion has received a $135,000 grant that will support an upgrade that will create robust IT structure that will enable the town to begin digitizing town records by the end of next year.

Under Action Items, the Select Board votes to approve the addition of an Emergency Inspector Fee of $150 for same-day, weekend or holiday responses as required. Board member Randy Parker, an electrician, recused himself from the discussion and vote.

The board also approved a Water/Sewer commitment of $155 for sewer reconnection (December 13.)

The Marion Select Board will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Goodspeed Island Violations Resolved

Mattapoisett Select Board

By Marilou Newell

The Mattapoisett Select Board heard from Conservation Commission member David Nicolosi and ConCom Chairman Mike King during the Select Board's Tuesday night meeting on details of a wetlands violation on public lands.

As Nicolosi described, an abutter to 1 Goodspeed Island Road notified the office of possible unpermitted activity. An extension to the guardrail on the easterly side

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had been erected. Not only was the fencing not permitted, it cut off public access to public spaces along an inlet well known for blue-crab fishing. Also, private-property signage on public lands had been put in place, and two cedar trees and grasses had been planted.

Representing the party responsible for the violations was David Davignon of Schneider, Davignon & Leone, Inc. Davignon stated that his client was willing to do whatever the town wished to rectify the matter but asked that private-property signage where applicable be allowed.

Nicolosi and King agreed that the property needs to be surveyed to ensure property lines are clearly marked in the field, that the environmental agent should examine grasses for acceptability to wetlands (and likely removal), remove offending fencing and install new signs indicating public and private spaces.

The homeowner in violation, who remained unnamed throughout the proceedings, will be required to file a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) after the fact. Meanwhile, the Conservation Commission will issue an emergency order to the town so work can commence.

Select Board Chairman Jodi Bauer lauded town departments for their work during the December 18 storm, and residents were urged to contact the Conservation Commission office if storm damage impacted private wetland areas and repairs are needed.

Earlier in the meeting, the board approved the use of $23,500 of ARPA funds for website upgrades.

As the board prepared to close the meeting, Bauer and member Tyler Macallister noted the disappointment that was felt by many when during the Holiday in the Park event someone connected the tree light in advance of the formal lighting.

Bauer suggested and the board agreed that in coming years the honor of lighting the tree should go to the winner of the Arbor Day Poster Contest held each year by the Tree Committee.

The board also made preliminary plans for meetings with department heads for budget discussions in preparation for the Annual (spring) Town Meeting.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, at 6:30 pm.

Dogs Draw Crowd at ZBA

Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals

By Mick Colageo

In a continued public hearing held November 30 in which applicants Benjamin and Elizabeth Frade had sought a Special Permit for an in-home, dog-training business at 16 Bishop Road, Rochester, Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman Dave Arancio read into the record a November 21 letter from Representative Richard Manning that the Frades have withdrawn their application without prejudice. The five members of the ZBA in attendance

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voted to accept that withdrawal.

An interested citizen in a room full of attendees at the Senior Center asked for clarification on the status of ongoing dog-related activities at the address. The question posed was whether apparent, ongoing activities would require a hobby license (because it was asserted there were more than two dogs at the address), along with proof that the dogs are owned by the resident.

After some discussion and interaction, the ZBA's involvement in the matter was concluded, but citizens were advised to follow the application at town offices. Then the entire room full of attendees got up and exited the building.

When it met in November, the Planning Board did not appoint any of its members to the Bylaw Review Committee, according to Arancio, who told ZBA members that he had offered to attend the Planning Board's December meeting and suggested that such a committee "hit the ground running."

"I will tell you that the last time there was a Bylaw Review Committee, nobody from the Planning Board even showed up," said ZBA member Richard Cutler.

Arancio indicated that the Planning Board envisions a Bylaw Review Committee setting its schedule similarly to the Public Safety Feasibility Study Committee that met situationally. He also noted that while the Planning Board would hold a public hearing on any

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proposed bylaw change, voters would ultimately decide on any proposed bylaw change at Town Meeting.

[Citing a full slate of commitments already in place, Arancio would request at the December 11 Select Board meeting that his appointment as chair of the new Zoning By-Law Review Committee be temporary with a plan to elect officers at the new committee's first meeting.]

With no petitions for meetings that would have been scheduled for December 14 and December 28, the membership determined to forgo a December meeting and schedule the next meeting of the Rochester ZBA in 2024.

ZBA, Steen Agree on 'Correction'

Marion Zoning Board of Appeals

By Mick Colageo

Ken Steen and the Marion Zoning Board of Appeals decided that a written agreement requiring the developer to build a sewer line as a prerequisite to pulling building permits for Heron Cove Estates was the result of a scrivener's error when occupancy permits were what was intended.

On November 30, the ZBA held a hastily called public meeting to beat a 20-day deadline to respond to a November 7 letter from Mark Bobrowski, Steen's attorney, and preserve the town's right to vote to consider the permitting amendment and a second amendment that would allow Steen to defer the payment of fees totaling $1,100,000 as substantial or insubstantial changes.

Chairperson Cynthia Callow and members Dani Engwert and Will Tifft would cast the unanimous votes that first, officially consider the changes to the agreement as insubstantial (meaning they will not require a public hearing) and second, approve a draft crafted by Town Counsel that also allows the deferral of fees (to a later date) that had originally been stipulated to be paid no more than 10 days after the first building permit is issued.

Earlier this year, Steen was issued a Comprehensive Permit to build Heron Cove Estates, a 120-unit, affordable-housing rental project off Route 6 near the Wareham town line. Its construction would push the Town of Marion over the state-required threshold of 10% in affordable housing and authorize town officials to reject future such applications in favor of market-rate housing projects that generate property-tax revenue and sewer rate payers.

Adjacent to Heron Cove Estates is such a development, a proposed, 48-unit, townhouse-style residential project currently in its vetting process with the Planning Board.

The fees that Steen agreed to pay the town as part of his LIP agreement to build Heron Cove Estates include $590,000 for infiltration and inflow (sewage treatment), $410,000 (sewer connection) and not more than $110,000 toward the replacement of the Creek Road pumping station.

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Bobrowski insisted that Steen has no intention of reneging on the agreement, only requesting more than 10 days after a building permit is pulled. When given the floor, Steen explained that town officials initiated the concession.

"Geoff (Gorman, town administrator) and the Select Board came to me and said, 'Can you pull the building permits?' I said, 'Yeah, I'm happy to pull the building permits, but I'm not going to come out of pocket five or six-hundred thousand dollars to pull the building permits to keep the town in safe harbor when I don't know where we're going to start the project,'" Steen stated. "So it's a two-fold situation. We're trying to help the town out by coming in and getting building permits so that you guys can stay in safe harbor and reach (subsidized-housing inventory) numbers, but at the same time the other correction relative to the sewer line – what I believe is … potentially a scrivener's error that passed through the process and we're left with the only option to correct it in this manner."

Alternate member Tucker Burr expressed concern that construction delays at Heron Cove could cost the town the leverage it hopes to gain against future affordable-housing developments and suggested issuing only the number of building permits it would take to get Marion over 10% in affordable housing.

"Where do we see ourselves a year and a half from now? Because, what's going to happen is we're going to issue all these permits, the SHI number is going to bump to like 12 percent," said Burr, suggesting that Heron Cove might never be built. "What's the plan if the SHI number goes back to 8 percent? What I'm considering should happen is there's no reason to issue all the building permits at once. We only need to issue slightly less than half of them to get us back over the 10 percent (in affordable housing.) At a minimum, I think we could actually do even less than that to get us back into safe harbor."

Burr asked Steen what he had done in the past year to "sort of move toward getting the sewer built." Steen said his activity has been limited to drawing plans, working with Marion's Department of Public Works and, after applying several months ago to the state Department of Transportation and seeing no movement, forcing a meeting with MassDOT in Gorman's office in mid-November.

"The town actually stalled the MassDOT permit issuance because they wouldn't sign an authorization form," said Steen.

Burr expressed concern that without a sewer built, Steen would not be in position to begin construction. Steen told Burr he was missing the point.

"What the idea of the sewer line is, first of all – and you can go back and check the tapes and somehow this slipped through in the final permit – it's ridiculous to make the installation of the sewer line a condition

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precedent before we can get a building permit. It always should have been 'occupancy permit,'" said Steen. "That's only common sense. Why would we want to hold up starting the project, theoretically, contingent upon a sewer line when, in fact, the town is protected at the end of the day because we have to install a sewer line in order to get an occupancy permit? … 'A,' we're correcting that."

Burr contended that even if Building Commissioner Bob Grillo extends previously issued building permits beyond the 180-day mark, it would not extend how long they apply to Marion's affordable-housing percentage.

"They're coming off the SHI in 18 months if you don't build them. So if you don't build them in 18 months, we're back to square one, we're back to 8 percent," contended Burr, who suggested that issuing 50 permits now and more later would extend Marion's stay in safe harbor.

Steen believed that if the building permits got reissued, then the town would remain in safe harbor.

"I'll do whatever the town wants. My main concern here is to fix the issue with timing (the building of the) sewer line with building permits so it can be tied to occupancy permits so that when we're ready to pull the trigger and start the project, we're not held up by a sewer line that potentially might not be able to be installed if that start date is sometime after November 1 when the state does not allow you to work in the state highway. So that is my main concern, to request that the board make that modification," said Steen. "The building permits … the town came to me, I'm happy to pull the building permits. I'd like to do it. It makes sense for everybody. I'm here to play ball, that's the way I work. You guys tell me what you want to do, that's kind of your thing, not mine."

Burr expressed appreciation to Steen for being amenable to the town's requests but went on to suggest that the town's representatives who negotiated the LIP agreement in the first place were not thinking about when the project would be built. He reiterated his preference that the town only issue the number of permits it would take to raise the SHI number to 10% in affordable housing, the threshold that allows Marion to refuse new applications filed with the state by developers.

Callow asked Steen if the ZBA approved the draft agreement as amended by Town Counsel, would he be willing to follow up with Grillo on the matter of protecting Marion's interests with a potentially measured issuance of building permits.

"I think Tucker makes a good point, I know what he's getting at. He may be right, I'm not sure, but I know what he's getting at, and I think it's a great thought process," said Steen, indicating he would work with the town on the pulling of permits. "I would say that I would just take Tucker's thoughts to Town Counsel and let her decide as to how to proceed. That's just my suggestion."

Callow said she would bring Burr's concern to

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Town Counsel and maintained her preference that the ZBA vote on substantial versus insubstantial changes in order to correct the agreement to reflect what both sides believe to be its original and best intentions, then handle the issuance of permits as a subsequent matter to be determined between Grillo, Gorman and Steen, as informed by Town Counsel.

Tifft expressed the value of Burr's discussion point but told Callow he was prepared to move forward and vote on the matter at hand.

A substantial change would require a public hearing, whereas an insubstantial change would allow the board to approve the amendment that allows Steen to pull building permits in cooperation with the town's request but without being tethered to a 10-day timeline that would require his payment of hundreds of thousands of dollars in associated fees. Those payments would be deferred to a later date.

"For the record, I think these are massively substantial changes, but as long as we're all in agreement that we want to do this, then that's okay," said Burr. "But I just would hate for anyone to be confused that changes like this in the future would also be considered insubstantial."

Anne Marie Tobia, the board administrator, noted that the amendment is "essentially a correction, though, between the selectmen's original decision and the decision that the Zoning Board made. It's a scrivener's correction, so what we're voting on is actually what the Select Board wanted it to be in the first place," she said. "I'm not a voting member, but in my mind, this isn't substantial, it's a correction. That's what I think."

"That completely discounts the idea that the people who voted on it believed that what was being passed was what they wanted to be passed," argued Burr.

"Not necessarily. The people that voted on it missed the mistake, missed the scrivener error. Yes, we did," said Callow.

Tobia reminded the board members that no occupancies will be allowed without the sewer line Steen agreed to install. "That sewer line is contingent upon occupancies, but it shouldn't be contingent upon pulling (building) permits. That's not fair," she said.

With that, the board took two unanimous votes, first to consider the amendments to the agreement as insubstantial and secondly to approve the draft as written by Town Counsel.

The next meeting of the Marion Zoning Board of Appeals was not scheduled upon adjournment.

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Trees Will Not Be Heard

Mattapoisett Planning Board

By Marilou Newell

Coming before the Mattapoisett Planning Board during their December 18 public meeting was Tree Committee Chairman Sandy Hering. Fresh from the well-

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attended Tree Committee meeting, Hering brought the Planning Board up to date on what had transpired and possible involvement, or lack thereof, for the Planning Board.

Hering explained that the Tree Committee meeting covered many aspects and areas of concern with respect to the proposed village street project. She said she learned from Town Administrator Mike Lorenco that because the village street project is a municipal project, trees felled out of necessity for that construction do not need to be vetted in a public hearing by the Planning Board.

Historically, the protocol had been that trees within the town's easement and requiring removal must first undergo a review via a public hearing. Surprised to hear that they would not be subject to a public hearing, Planning Board Chairman Tom Tucker asked, "When did they start doing this?"

Board member William Wennerberg, who is also a Tree Committee member, reported that Lorenco explained that Planning Board involvement in the removal of trees that is part of a municipal project is not necessary. Hering had broached the idea of having each tree currently slated for removal vetted in the public-hearing format by the Planning Board.

Board member John Mathieu read from the Mass.gov website: "After a road has been designated as a scenic road, any repair, maintenance, reconstruction, or paving work done with respect thereto shall not involve or include the cutting or removal of trees or the tearing down or destruction of stone walls or portions thereof, except with the prior written consent of the planning board…" The statute goes on to read that if there isn't a planning board, responsibility falls to the select board. Tucker said he would speak with Lorenco to clear up this matter.

Hering also said that Lorenco had agreed to flag all 26 trees presently slated for removal to give residents a visual representation of what will be gone. She said that residents are now becoming aware of this project and have questions that need to be answered.

In other business, the board approved the removal of trees located at 12 Barstow Street, 12 North Street and 4 Marion Road.

Wennerberg asked if the board would entertain looking at tree removal policy and local bylaw for the possible inclusion of new language that would beef up new tree plantings. He said that currently, if a tree is removed in the town's easement, the homeowner of the property can refuse to have a new tree planted. Hering concurred that oftentimes property owners, "…don't want new trees." Wennerberg said the absence of such language means that the town is taking down trees but not replacing them. Member Nathan Ketchel thought for every one tree removed, two should be planted. The board members agreed to study the matter.

The board also approved the Form B Preliminary Subdivision Plan for property located on Ocean Drive and

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The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Planning Board is scheduled for Monday, January 8, at 7:00 pm.

Johnson Hopes to Repeal Bylaw

Marion Board of Health

By Mick Colageo

Now that the heat is apparently off south-coast homeowners to budget for a state-legislated upgrade to their Title 5 septic systems to costly denitrification technology, Marion Board of Health founding member Albin Johnson wants to take it a step further and find out if the board can repeal the recently approved town bylaw requiring that Marion property owners performing any new construction upgrade their septic systems to include denitrification technology.

Having been approached by some constituents regarding alternative septic systems in Marion, Johnson indicated that the state's effort to leverage upgrades to denitrification technology will not succeed on the mainland side of the Cape Cod Canal. He said the new technology being pushed by state government through incentive programs is time consuming and not cost effective.

"Be that as it may, it appears that … at the state level, the (Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection) was unable to convince enough state legislatures that the program that they put the cape on

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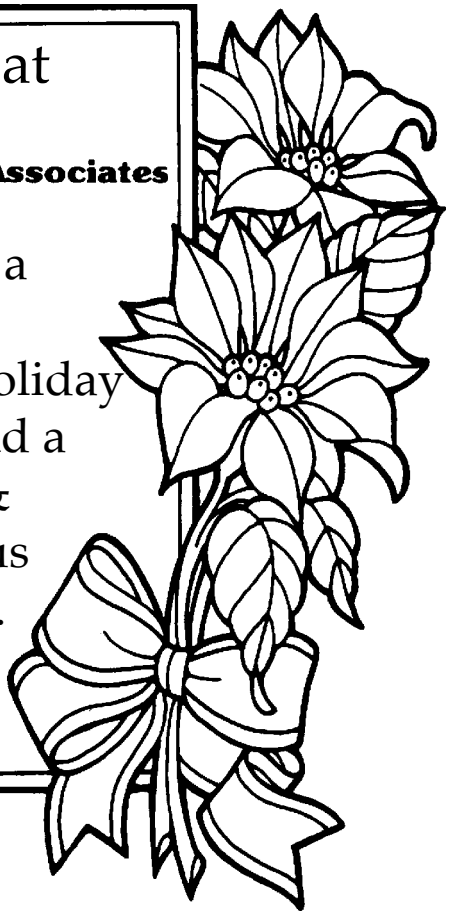

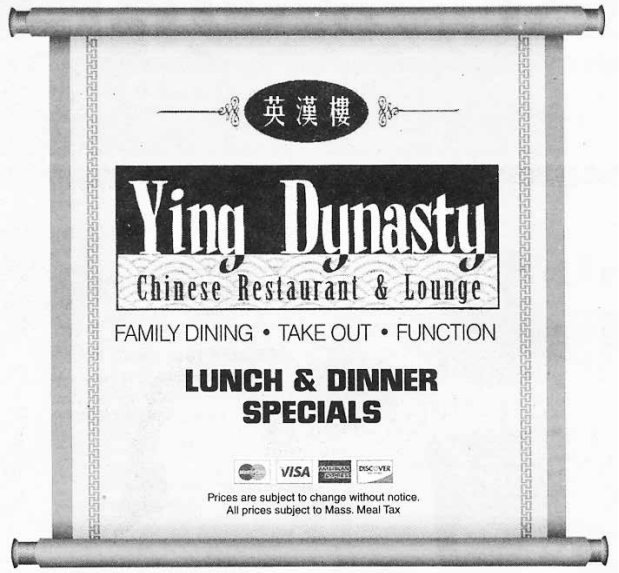

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is sufficient for this area of Buzzards Bay," said Johnson during the December 7 public meeting of the Marion Board of Health. "So we were left off the mandate that we have everybody upgrade immediately. We've been left dangling out there with the Marion Sanitary Code, and where it is just the Marion Sanitary Code, I'd like to look into the ability of the Board of Health to go back to our relying on Title 5 for the septic systems of the town before we get too many of these sewer-treatment plants in private houses. Because that's basically what they are, sewer-treatment plants."

Johnson has always been skeptical of the associated studies, especially in Marion.

"I question some of the studies that have been done, not so much down cape, but we are a completely different geological area, and we couldn't find any nitrogen leaking from the town (Wastewater Treatment Plant lagoon) up there on Benson Brook Road, and yet they continue to insist that that was where most of the nitrogen was coming from. And it cost us $13,000,000 (for the sludge cleanup.) So I'd like to save some of the residents of the town who might not be as close to the harbor," he said. "I question the … efficacy of putting these (denitrification septic) systems up in the north end of Marion."

During her tenure on the Board of Health, scientist Dot Brown authored and gotten passed a Marion bylaw requiring any new construction in town

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needing septic to include an upgrade to denitrification technology. Cost estimates for such installations in single-family homes have ranged from $20,000 up beyond $30,000. In order to operate efficiently, the systems also call for consistent maintenance and management by the homeowner.

"Well I think it is reasonable to try to find out what the evidence base is, and it's always nice to know if you have facts as opposed to opinions," said Dr. Ed Hoffer, the current chairman of the board. "I would suggest that maybe both you and I can do a little interrogation of those that are pushing it and see if we can find facts."

"That would be fine with me," said Johnson, who questioned MassDEP as to why Marion was not notified and informed of a November 28 meeting the state agency held with the Town of Wareham, with which Marion shares the Weweantic River.

The IA database annual user fee will increase from $50 to $60.

Hoffer suggested the matter go on the first agenda of the 2024 season; in the meantime, he and Johnson will conduct a fact-finding mission as a prelude to any decision regarding how to henceforth regard the denitrification bylaw.

In her Public Health Director/Nurse Update, Lori Desmarais reported that Marion has administered 533 flu vaccines and 105 COVID-19 vaccines in 2023 and has only five Covid vaccines left. "We still have flu vaccines if people need them," said Desmarais.

Marion's association with Dementia Friendly Massachusetts led to an informational meeting on December 6, and the town is now working on a pamphlet with information for citizens.

In a review of correspondence, Hoffer said the Health Department's FY25 budget only reflects cost-of-living increases.

The board discussed a letter sent to the owner at 15 West Avenue, denying permission of an application and a memo copying the decision to Building Commissioner Bob Grillo. The address "is not a single-family dwelling but a rental property at this point," according to Hoffer, who anticipates the matter falling into the purview of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Desmarais also suggested sending the decision to the Planning Board.

Health Agent Shallyn Rodriguez reported that 38 Rockey Knook Lane now has a new Title 5 septic system.

In discussing the Massachusetts Transient Noncommunity Drinking Water Systems – 310 CMR 22.00, it was noted that the Ansel Gurney House, 403 County Road, has been serving water from a well under the purview of MassDEP. Hoffer said that tying into Wareham water was found to be "ridiculously expensive" for another Marion-based interest. Desmarais researched other towns for protocols and found that extensive testing is being done, especially in wells that are not managed by

MassDEP.

The board has decided to return its public meetings to the Marion Town House, necessitating a change in meeting time from 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Given the holidays and scheduled vacations, the board agreed to meet on December 28 and hold its first meeting of 2024 on January 18.

The next meeting of the Marion Board of Health is scheduled for Thursday, December 28, at 4:30 pm at the Town House.

One-Year School Improvement Plan Approved

Mattapoisett School Committee

By Mick Colageo

Alignment across the Old Rochester Regional School District, it was agreed by the Mattapoisett School Committee, is essential to strengthening learning at the most local level.

The committee met on December 7 to review and vote to approve the 2023-24 School Improvement Plan, which was presented by local elementary school principals Dr. Linda Ashley and Kevin Tavares within the context of the Old Rochester Regional School District's Vision 2028 strategic plan.

Local schools will have a one-year improvement plan, then go back to two-year models, to be in synch with ORR's five-year plan.

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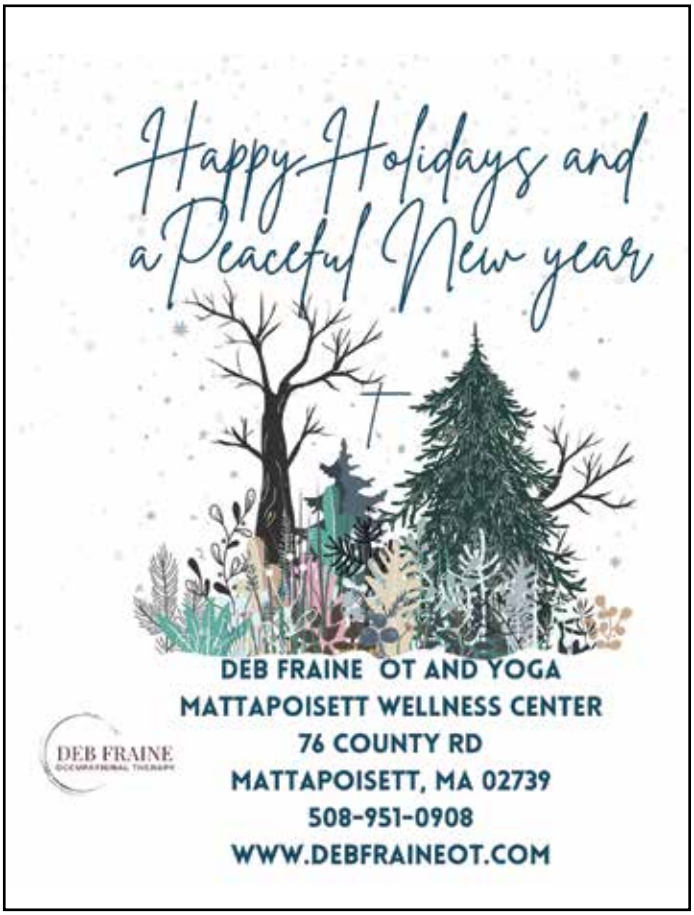

across the district, especially in terms of literacy and curriculum.

Ashley, the principal at Center School, discussed the draft plan, meeting with other district principals, and arriving at action steps that include implementation of the district-wide, core literacy program, Into Reading and the Science of Reading, in collaboration with The Hill for Literacy and the effort to provide teachers with Into Reading resources and professional development.

"The big, overarching district goal," Ashley stated, is to establish common assessment practices across grade levels with horizontal and vertical alignment. A common assessment plan and schedule will be established across the district.

"We are literally tying all the building-level work to our strategic plan," said ORR Superintendent of Schools Mike Nelson, who reminded the committee that while the district-wide Vision 2028 included five initiatives under each facet of the strategic plan, not every initiative would be tackled in Year 1. "So what you're seeing is that the initiatives in each objective that are scheduled to start in Year 1 of the Strategic Plan, now are having goals presented at the building level in terms of what Year 1 work needs to be done in each of the schools either individually or collectively."

Ashley said that the District Instructional Council members and select staff from Center and Old Hammondtown schools will review and update the curriculum content.

The overarching goal in the second part of the School Improvement Plan is related to Teaching and Learning and begins by defining and revising the process of professional development so as to support equitable teaching and learning with consistent and dedicated time.

Tavares, principal at Old Hammondtown School, introduced Strategic Initiative Number 3 related to the strengthening of support systems.

Action steps include weekly meetings of "response to intervention" (RTI) teams, ensuring that students needing those steps are addressed. FLEX intervention blocks in the weekly schedule will be used for this work.

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"I think it's been a goal of the superintendent, where we feed into the junior high, to have all three towns, so you'll see the words 'district-wide systems' throughout this (presentation)," said Tavares.

Climate and culture are at the core of Strategic Initiative Number 4. Principals, teachers and adjustment counselors will collaborate to promote strong social as well as academic skills.

The "responsive classroom" is based on meetings to establish classroom rules, behavioral supports and restorative practices to apply social-emotional learning. The outcome hoped for is discipline.

Communication with families and engaging students in leadership roles, including Project 351.

Safe schooling is a goal, including cybersecurity training, ALICE (alert, lockdown, inform, counter, evacuate) training and fire drills.

Inventory and meetings with Facilities Director Gene Jones and Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Howie Barber will be part of the teachers' follow-up on classroom needs.

The committee voted 4-0 to approve the School Improvement Plan.

In her Chairperson's Report, Carly Lavin reported having received information for a potential policy from a member of the community and has referred that information to the district police-review process. Member Cristin Cowles will report back to the committee.

"For me there is no doubt the focus this year has been on our new literacy curriculum," said Lavin, calling it "something the committee is really proud of." She said she is thankful for the hard work by everyone involved. Lavin also noted that the impact has extended beyond the classrooms into family life, as many students are learning literacy in a new way.

"Change, while challenging, is the catalyst that propels us toward new heights, and we've really just started to imagine what that could be for our students and our children," said Lavin.

With that, Lavin recognized the many people who are working toward helping the schools go through the change.

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Given the floor, Nelson spoke on behalf of administration and talked about some recent extracurricular activities, including the Unified Basketball Team's fundraising game against tri-town Police and Fire personnel.

He noted the impending retirement of Tavares and indicated that the search process will soon commence.

In the absence of Barber, Nelson reported that the Mattapoisett School District operating budget has an unencumbered $747,911 at its disposal. Obligations to Bristol County Agricultural School will not affect those funds, according to Barber, said Nelson.

The Facilities Report included quotes to paint the Center School clock tower. Breakfast and lunch counts continue to be strong at both Center and Old Hammondtown schools, and the Thanksgiving banquet that had not been held since prior to the COVID-19 pandemic was a major success.

At the recommendation of the administration, the committee voted to approve the admittance of the Brockton Public Schools and Whitman-Hanson Regional School districts as new READS Collaborative member districts effective July 1, 2024.

Sarah Leahy has been brought aboard as the music/chorus teacher and Luis Rivera as a cook.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett School Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 6:30 pm, and the next meeting of the Joint School Committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 6:30 pm.

Bulldogs Power through Nauset

Sports Roundup

By Aiden Comorosky

The Old Rochester Regional High School's boys' basketball team played Nauset Regional on December 15 at home and won 64-24. The win brought the Bulldogs' record to 2-1.

It was neck and neck in the first quarter, with ORR being up 12-9 by the end of it. But in the second quarter, that's when everything changed. Old Rochester went on a 13-0 run and allowed only 4 points from Nauset, while scoring 24 of their own.

"I think the biggest change is we were pressing full court but went to a halfcourt trap," said ORR head coach Steve Carvalho.

OBITUARIES

Patrick C. Cipriano, 82, of Marion, passed away on December 16, 2023, at Tobey Hospital, Wareham surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of Jennifer (Andresen) Cipriano and the son of the late Lawrence and Rose (Quaranto) Cipriano.

Pat, or how he was known to family and friends, Cippy, was born in Boston and grew up in Waltham. He was a larger than life person who was very social. Pat had many family and friends that he spent time with throughout the years. He graduated from Waltham Vocational High School and enlisted in the U.S. Navy after graduation.

Pat was proud to have served in the U.S. Navy from 1961 to 1965 during the Vietnam War. He was assigned to the aircraft carrier Lake Champlain. He often spoke about how they picked up Alan Shepard, the first American in space, out at sea. It was here where Pat discovered the love of travel.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the Navy, Pat decided to follow in his father's footsteps and attend barber school in Boston. It was there that he worked with his father, Larry, in his barbershop, the second largest barber shop in Cambridge.

Pat always had a strong work ethic. Throughout his adult life, he always worked two-three jobs. Pat became a salesman for several liquor distributors for over 30 years, but always worked at a barbershop on the weekends. He was a strong member of the community, had a large heart, and would help anyone who needed assistance.

In 1985, Pat moved to Marion where he met his beautiful wife Jennifer. They created a loving home with Pat's two children. After retiring from his sales career, Pat owned and operated Gateway Barber Shop in Wareham for 17 years before retiring. He was very proud of his community roots in Wareham.

Pat was a devoted father and husband and hosted many family gatherings. He was famous for celebrating the Italian Christmas Eve tradition of The Feast of Seven Fishes to a houseful of family and friends. Pat loved to travel, exploring many countries in Europe and the Caribbean Islands. He was an excellent cook and enjoyed reading, fishing and having a glass of Scotch. Next time you are celebrating anything, please raise a glass to Pat, he would love it.

Survivors include his wife, Jennifer (Andresen) Cipriano of Marion; his son, Christopher Cipriano of New Bedford; his daughter, Leisha O'Brien and her husband, Neal of New Bedford; his sister, Rose Marie Palmer and her husband, Peter of Ancaster, Ontario, Canada; and many nephews and nieces.

Visiting hours are from 4 to 7 pm on Thursday, December 28, 2023, at Chapman Funerals & Cremations – Wareham, 2599 Cranberry Hwy., Wareham.

His funeral and burial will be private for the family.

If you have a notice you would like to have included in the Obituaries section, please contact our office at: 508 758-9055, or by email at office@wanderer.com.

The Bulldogs went on to take care of business, in great fashion, with young freshmen Grady Oliveira and Hunter Horsey getting to show off their skills.

"They're the future. We're very high on them, and we need them to keep developing their skills," said Carvalho.

Chase Besancon was huge in all aspects with 22 points and 10 rebounds, but the Bulldogs fell against Wareham on December 12, and lost 75-68. Other great performances included Zach Mourao's 17 points, and John Buler, who scored 15 points including four three pointers.

"All three of them hustled all over the court," said Carvalho.

The teams were tied at 41-41 at halftime. ORR was down double digits early in the fourth quarter and cut it to a three-point Wareham lead with two minutes left.

"I was proud of their efforts," says Carvalho.

ORR was scheduled to host Nauset Regional High School on December 15 and continue their homestand on Tuesday against Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech (2-0.)

Girls Basketball

The ORR girls' basketball team endured a rough patch last week, losing 35-24 against Falmouth and lost 61-34 to Dartmouth. Leading the effort against Dartmouth was Emma Johnson, who had 11 points while Tessa Winslow had 8 points.

"Dartmouth is a very good team and well

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PUBLIC ACCESS
Comcast Channel 9
Verizon Channel 36

Thursday December 21, 2023
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Cape Conversations
8:30 AM You and Your Health
9:00 AM A Conversation With…
9:30 AM Pete on the Street
10:00 AM The Curious Giraffe Show
10:30 AM Pine Meadow Alpaca Farms Animal Education
11:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
11:30 AM Paltrocast with Darren Paltowitz
12:00 PM Tri-Town TV
12:20 PM Christmas in the Tri-Town
12:30 PM What's Linda Cooking?
1:00 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:30 PM Two Tones with George Lopes
2:00 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Paul Thomas
3:00 PM Marion Natural History Museum - Black Bear Ecology
4:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow and Today
5:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
5:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
6:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
6:30 PM Tri-Town TV
7:00 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
7:30 PM This is America & The World
8:00 PM Money Matters TV
8:30 PM The Beacon Hill Report
9:00 PM Lamb of God Christian Church
10:00 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Blue October
11:00 PM Democracy Now!

Friday December 22, 2023
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Bulldog Sports Show
8:30 AM Living & Learning with Disabilities
9:30 AM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
10:00 AM The Curious Giraffe Show
10:30 AM Mike Paige Doodle Club
11:00 AM Cape Conversations
11:30 AM A Conversation With…
12:00 PM Tri-Town TV
12:20 PM Christmas in the Tri-Town
12:30 PM What's Linda Cooking?
1:00 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
1:30 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
2:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
2:30 PM Christmas in the Tri-Town
3:00 PM Two Grannies on the Road
3:30 PM This is America and the World
4:00 PM Paltrocast with Darren Paltowitz
4:30 PM Southcoast Matters TV
5:00 PM ORR Powderpuff Game
6:00 PM Tri-Town TV
6:30 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Blue October
8:00 PM Sippican Historical Society - Celebrating the Archive with Leslie Thayer Piper
9:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
10:00 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Democracy Now!

Saturday December 23, 2023
6:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartoon Festival
9:00 AM Health Source
9:30 AM Two Grannies on the Road
10:00 AM The Curious Giraffe Show
10:30 AM A Conversation With…
11:00 AM Auto Sense
11:30 AM Science 360
12:00 PM Mid-Day Movie
1:30 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Paul Thomas
2:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
3:00 PM Paltrocast with Darren Paltowitz
3:30 PM South Coast Matters
4:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
5:00 PM ORR Volleyball vs Dennis Yarmouth
6:00 PM Tri-Town TV
6:20 PM Christmas in the Tri-Town
6:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow and Today
7:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
7:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Global 3000
8:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Conflict Zone
8:30 PM Sippican Historical Society - Celebrating the Archive with Leslie Thayer Piper
10:00 PM Two Tones with George Lopes
10:30 PM Let's Talk Business
11:00 PM Classic Movies

Sunday December 24, 2023
6:00 AM Health Source
6:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
7:00 AM Lamb of God Christian Church
8:00 AM Mattapoisett Congregational Church
9:00 AM First Congregational Church of Rochester
10:00 AM St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church of Marion
11:00 AM Sippican Memorial Rededication
11:30 AM Tri-Town TV
11:50 AM Christmas in the Tri-Town
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM - 11:59 PM Christmas Programming

Monday December 25, 2023
24-Hour Christmas Programming

Tuesday December 26, 2023
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
9:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
9:30 AM The Collective Chat
10:00 AM The Curious Giraffe
10:30 AM Mike Paige Doodle Club
11:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartooning
11:30 AM In the Toy Box
12:00 PM Tri-Town TV
12:20 PM Christmas in the Tri-Town
12:30 PM What's Linda Cooking?
1:00 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:30 PM Miss New Bedford Insider
2:00 PM The Human Truth
2:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow and Today
3:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
3:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Global 3000
4:00 PM Marion Natural History Museum - Black Bear Ecology
5:30 PM Tri-Town TV
6:00 PM Marion Art Center - The Importance of Being Earnest
8:40 PM The Beacon Hill Report
9:10 PM Falmouth Academy Community Series
10:00 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Democracy Now!

Wednesday December 27, 2023
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:30 AM For Your Health
9:00 AM Two Grannies on the Road
9:30 AM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
10:00 AM The Curious Giraffe Show
10:30 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
11:00 AM Mattapoisett Congregational Church
12:00 PM Tri-Town TV
12:20 PM Christmas in the Tri-Town
12:30 PM What's Linda Cooking?
1:00 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:30 PM Southcoast Matters TV
2:00 PM Pine Meadow Alpaca Farms Animal Education
2:10 PM Mattapoisett Harbor Days
2:30 PM Money Talk Tuesday
3:00 PM A Conversation With…
3:30 PM Music Monday's with Houston Bernard
4:00 PM Paltrocast with Darren Paltrowitz
4:30 PM Rochester Historical Society - Historical Maps of Rochester
5:30 PM Building the Future
6:00 PM Tri-Town TV
6:30 PM The World Fusion Show
7:00 PM Let's Talk Business
7:30 PM Sippican Historical Society Speaker Series - The Revolutionary Temper with Robert Darnton
9:00 PM Old Colony Football vs Narragansett
11:00 PM Democracy Now!

MARION GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 39
Daily Schedule
7:00 AM Marion Board of Selectmen
7:30 AM Marion Planning Board
9:00 AM Marion Conservation Commission
11:00 AM Marion Zoning Board of Appeals
12:00 PM Marion School Committee
1:00 PM Marion Finance Committee
2:00 PM Marion Open Space Acquisition Commission
2:30 PM Marion Affordable Housing Trust
3:30 PM Marion Board of Health
4:30 PM Marion Marine Resource Commission
5:00 PM Marion Pathway Committee
5:30 PM ORR School COmmittee
7:00 PM Marion Board of Selectmen
7:30 PM Marion Planning Board
9:00 PM Marion Conservation Commission
11:00 PM Marion Zoning Board of Appeals

ROCHESTER GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 40
Daily Schedule
7:00 AM Rochester Board of Selectmen
7:30 AM Rochester Planning Board
8:30 AM Rochester Conservation Commission
10:00 AM Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals
10:30 AM Rochester School Committee
11:30 AM ORR School Committee
1:00 PM ORR Joint School Committee
3:00 PM Rochester Board of Selectmen
3:30 PM Rochester Conservation Commission
4:30 PM Rochester Planning Board
6:00 PM Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals
6:30 PM Rochester School Committee
7:30 PM ORR School Committee
9:00 PM ORR Joint School Committee
11:00 PM Rochester Board of Selectmen
11:30 PM Rochester Conservation Commission

EDUCATION CHANNEL
Comcast Channel 8
Verizon Channel 37
Daily Schedule
7:00 AM Bulldog Sports Show
7:30 AM Bulldog Weekly
8:00 AM ORR School Committee
9:30 AM ORR Joint School Committee
11:30 AM ORRJHS Drama
12:00 PM Bulldog Sports Show
12:30 PM Bulldog Weekly
1:00 PM ORR Pep Rally
2:00 PM ORR Class Olympics
3:00 PM ORR Unified Basketball vs Tri-Town Police
4:00 PM ORR Unified Basketball vs Dighton Rehoboth
5:00 PM ORR Football vs Dartmouth
6:30 PM Bulldog Sports Show
7:00 PM ORR Music - A Night of Jazz
8:00 PM ORR Music Education
9:00 PM The Harvard Krokodiloes at ORR
10:30 PM ORR Football vs Attleboro

MATTAPOISETT GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 38

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE
by Stephan Pastis

coached. If we want to get to that level, we need to be more consistent and not give other teams extra opportunities," says ORR head coach Rick Regan, whose squad was scheduled to visit Greater New Bedford Vocational-Technical High School on Tuesday.

Hockey

The ORR/Fairhaven hockey team defeated Bishop Stang, 6-2, on December 16 at Hetland Memorial rink in New Bedford. Junior Caleb Bousquet was named the player of the game for the Bulldogs, scoring two goals and dishing two assists.

Connor Galligan earned player of the game honors for ORR/Fairhaven with three goals and two assists in a 9-4 romp over Greater New Bedford Vocational-Technical High School on December 14 at the Travis Roy Rink on the Tabor Academy campus.

Freshman Matt Tobin scored his first varsity goal. Caleb Bousquet had a goal and three assists, Justin Marques had two goals and an assist, and Jarrod Frates scored two goals. Defenseman Barrett Becotte had a goal and two assists.

"After some up-and-down play in the middle of the game, the boys came together as a team and figured things out," said ORR head coach Zach Ledogar.

The Bulldogs were scheduled to visit Dennis-Yarmouth on Monday at Tony Kent Arena in Dennis and Seekonk on Wednesday.

Indoor Track

Emily Abbott and Wes Archelus were named the players of the meet, as the ORR boys and girls indoor track-and-field teams had their first meet on December 16.

Coastline Elderly Nutrition Program

Monday, Dec 25: Holiday – no meals served
Tuesday, Dec 26: Spaghetti & meatballs w/tomato basil sauce, Genoa blend vegetable, multigrain roll, pineapple
Wednesday, Dec 27: BBQ pulled pork sandwich, baked beans, cabbage & carrots, hamburger roll, pound cake
Thursday, Dec 28: Turkey a la king, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, honey wheat bread, flavored applesauce
Friday, Dec 29: Florentine omelet, hash browns, escalloped tomatoes, fruit loaf, orange juice

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Letters to the Editor

The views expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" column are not necessarily those of The Wanderer, its staff or advertisers. The Wanderer will gladly accept any and all correspondence relating to timely and pertinent issues in the great Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester area, provided they include the author's name, address and phone number for verification. We cannot publish anonymous, unsigned or unconfirmed submissions. The Wanderer reserves the right to edit, condense and otherwise alter submissions for purposes of clarity and/or spacing considerations. The Wanderer may choose to not run letters that thank businesses, and The Wanderer has the right to edit letters to omit business names. The Wanderer also reserves the right to deny publication of any submitted correspondence. All letters must be typed and submitted directly to: news@wanderer.com.

To the Editor:

For years upper Aucoot Cove has been closed to shellfishing because of Marion's sewer plant effluent and last Friday in a joint announcement by Marion and Mattapoisett select boards the entire cove from Converse Point to Harbor Beach was closed for 21 days due to a discharge of wastewater at the Marion's plant. What exactly happened?

There is a broken pipe in the marsh north of the cove. We believe this might be the pipe that once carried the effluent across the marsh to a discharge point close to Converse Point and east of Haskell Island.

In 2017, the Buzzards Bay project studied the matter but could not determine the facts surrounding that broken pipe. A contributing factor might be that I have

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TriTown Happenings

Judy Mooney, Marion's retiring finance director, shares a moment with her replacement, Heather O'Brien, during Tuesday morning's sendoff at the Town House. Many stopped in to wish Judy well in her retirement after two decades serving the town. Photos by Mick Colageo

Flash flooding on Monday in Marion village shut down parts of Front Street and closed Island Wharf and Silvershell Beach, which were under water. Photos courtesy Town of Marion

The Marion Natural History Museum's after-school group enjoyed crafting with natural and recycled materials and snacking with friends during our annual holiday party. From snow globes to snowy forest scenes, from acorn people to weaving with sticks, the students' creative abilities resulted in some wonderful projects to bring home to families. The Marion Natural History Museum would like to thank volunteers Maggie Payne, Marc Sylvia, Karen Alves-Cronin and Mike Cronin for their help thinking up great new projects and thank Tabor volunteers Eddy Yeon, Ryan Francis, Sullieman Al Harthy and Noah Divon for their cheerful help creating with the students. Please visit marionmuseum.org after the holidays to see our upcoming programs and Happy Holidays. Photo courtesy Elizabeth Leidhold

Old Colony's national Honor Society members hosted a holiday event, titled Winter Wonderland on December 15. Children of all ages met and were photographed with Santa and Elsa, while others pinned the nose on Rudolph, made ornaments and enjoyed yummy treats. Elsa was played by Bea Ashley. Photos by Marilou Newell

Sippican Elementary School third graders and Nate Sander of the Marion Institute plant garlic and clover during the Grow FTS program. The students learned about how the sun and soil work together to produce an environment conducive for a plant to grow and thrive. Photos courtesy ORR District

These photos and more are available online at www.wanderer.com

seen different Marion town maps refer to the effluent course and called it the "effluent ditch" or "effluent line."

The state has contributed 2 million to help fix the plant's problems. Nothing has been spent or done to curb the effluent outflow directly into Mattapoisett's side of the cove destroying its natural resources.

I would like Mattapoisett town officials to immediately take more positive action to determine what that broken pipe represents, how the effluent is discharged after leaving the plant, how the effluent "ditch" can work running diagonally across the many vertical state-dug ditches in the Aucoot marshes and taking action against Marion to fix this problem once and for all.

Brad Hathaway, Mattapoisett

New Year Classes at the Marion Art Center

Instructor Lisa Elliott will teach a new session of Weaving on a Rigid Heddle Loom on Sunday afternoons from 1:00-3:30 pm in the MAC Studio, **January 7-February 4**. Have you ever wanted to try weaving but not sure where to begin? In five short weeks, you can learn a new fiber skill and take home your very first woven project. Students will weave one of the following: a scarf, table runner, set of placemats, or set of tea towels. Looms and weaving equipment are provided for a $10 fee, but students can provide their own loom. Students will provide their own yarns. The cost is $150 for MAC members and $160 for nonmembers, and the class is limited to six students. Register at marionartcenter.org/adult-classes.

Two new eight week sessions of All Levels Watercolor Painting for Adults starts on **January 18 and 19**. Instructor Jay Ryan will teach a two-hour class on Thursday mornings from 10 am-12 pm, and he will offer a three-hour eight week course on Friday mornings from 9:30 am-12:30 pm. The cost for the Thursday class is $195 for MAC members and $225 for nonmembers, while the Friday class costs $295 for MAC members and $325 for

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Saturday 8am-2pm

Movie Review

Local Boys

By Rob Gonsalves
www.robsmovievault.com

***Finestkind*. Starring Ben Foster and Jenna Ortega. Directed by Brian Helgeland. Running time: 126 minutes. MPAA rating: R. Now streaming on Paramount+.**

Brian Helgeland, the writer/director of the fishing-boat thriller *Finestkind,* clearly knows his way around the deck. Before lighting out for Hollywood, he worked a scallop boat out of New Bedford, Massachusetts, where the land scenes in *Finestkind* are set and were (mostly) filmed. As the film's college-age protagonist Charlie (Toby Wallace) learns the ropes, so do we. Charlie drops in on his fisherman/captain brother Tom (Ben Foster) and goes to work for him. It would have been interesting to follow these two in the real world, not in a neo-*noir* where people intone things like "You set us up!" and "Why the gun?" at each other.

Helgeland delivers a more or less engaging thriller anyway. But the early scenes — maybe the first hour or so — feel so lived-in and tied to experience sweet as well as harsh that it's kind of a bummer when *Finestkind* pivots towards genre. I guess what I'm asking for is not so much a different movie as a different world — a world where a studio would finance a slice-of-life comedy-drama about a smart kid who roughens his hands on a fishing vessel for a while. But this is this world, and the script for *Finestkind* hails from a time when Helgeland was starting out and needed to show studios he could write something that would make money. This is the game most filmmakers in the studio system have to play.

So plot threads begin to rise and envelop the characters, and some of them work better than others. Captain Tom loses his boat, so he moves to the boat owned by his dad (Tommy Lee Jones), but then *that* boat gets impounded, and $100,000 is needed to get it un-impounded, and luckily Charlie has fallen in with Mabel (Jenna Ortega), who has drug connections through her mother. Soon we stop seeing details of working life and other things we haven't seen much before in movies, and start seeing things we've seen all too often.

Money is flashed. Packets of drugs are hidden (in scallop-filled freezers). Guns are brandished. One hilarious twist that perhaps only those from Massachusetts can fully appreciate: the ominous meetings of criminal business take place mostly in a well-lit donut shop. (Clayne Crawford, as the scary kingpin, is groomed like and has possibly been encouraged to sound like Casey Affleck in his great Dunkin' Donuts bit on *Saturday Night Live.*) People are beaten up. As soon as we see a pregnant woman, we wait for something traumatizing to befall her. The thing is, this plot seems to want to steer towards a bleak, despairing *noir* ending, and Helgeland seems to like his characters too much to let that happen. Everyone mostly ends up where we'd like them to be. It's as though the movie sweated out its fever and started sipping ginger ale and getting around again. The characters become like people again, with wants and needs beyond the thriller narrative.

So there's a tension between the more artful, less "plotty" version of this story — the soil of which produces the flowering of mood and milieu and character we encounter in *Finestkind*'s first half — and the more conventional path down which the movie takes us, temporarily, until Helgeland settles the plot stuff and sets his people free to plan their lives after the movie is over. But before it gets slightly less interesting — only slightly, Helgeland is still professional enough to wring some stress out of the thriller elements — there are lovely moments, such as when Mabel shows Charlie her room and says "This is me," or when Charlie and Tom can't quite escape the embrace of their mom (Lolita Davidovich), or when we see a junkie who nevertheless has enough wherewithal and taste to read Elmore Leonard. Helgeland has created people who deserve better than what the studio demands he give them.

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nonmembers. Each class has a one-day drop-in option ($30 for Thursday, $45 for Friday) for those who can't commit to the entire session or would like to get in some extra studio time with the instructor. Learn more and register online at marionartcenter.org/adult-classes.

Registration is open for the winter session of MAC Dance Academy. Instructor Tess Hedblom and Program leader Teah Keogh will offer a 5-week winter session with Preschool and Beginner classes (ages 3-8) beginning **January 8**. The cost is $105 for MAC members and $120 for nonmembers. The 10-week spring session begins **March 4** and costs $205 for MAC members and $235 for nonmembers. The age group for the spring session may be extended to include an intermediate class. All classes meet for half an hour on Monday afternoons. MAC Dance Academy is a low-key, low-cost dance program geared toward girls and boys ages 3+. To learn more, see the full schedule for both sessions, and to register, visit marionartcenter.org/mac-dance-academy.

Chuck's Fantasia - Artwork by Chuck McIntyre

From the neuro-divergent mind of Mattapoisett resident Chuck McIntyre comes an exhibit called Chuck's

Tri-town Police Logs

MARION
Log highlights Dec 10-Dec 16
- Front St – Brush fire
- Front St – Health/welfare
- Mill St - Transport
- Briggs Ln – Road hazard
- Main St – Officer wanted
- Mill St – EMS/medical
- Converse Rd – Health/welfare
- West Dr – Gas leak
- Point Rd – Health/welfare
- Mill St - Fraud
- Marconi Ln – EMS/medical
- Spring St – EMS/medical
- Front St – Road hazard
- Front St – Found property
- Main St – MV complaint
- Edgewater Ln – Suspicious MV
- Mill St – EMS/medical
- Village Dr – Suspicious person
- Wells Rd – Found property
- Register Rd – Health/welfare
- Fieldstone Ln – EMS/medical
- Front St – Health/welfare
- Point Rd – Animal complaint
- Pine Hill Ln – Health/welfare
- Piney Point Rd – EMS/medical
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- South St – Larceny/past
- Point Rd – Health/welfare
- Ichabod Ln – Parking enforcement

MATTAPOISETT
Log highlights Dec 10-Dec 16
- Main St – MV violations
- North St – Protective custody
- Pine Rd - Vandalism
- Brandt Island Rd – Animal control
- Neds Point Rd – Health/welfare
- Marion Rd – 911 call
- County Rd – Suspicious MV
- North St – MV violations
- Fairhaven Rd – Animal control
- Baker Ln – Health/welfare
- Upland Way – Animal control
- Marion Rd – MV violations
- Crystal Spring Rd – MV crash
- Fairhaven Rd – Health/welfare
- County Rd – Assist citizen
- Fairhaven Rd – Restraining order
- Marion Rd – Larceny/forgery/fraud
- County Rd – Property road
- Ocean Dr – Health/welfare
- Marion Rd – MV violations
- Crystal Spring Rd – Property lost
- Shaw St – Officer wanted
- County Rd – No trespass order
- Marion Rd – MV crash
- Main St – MV lockout
- Pocohantas Way – Medical assist
- Lynfield Ln – Ambulance request
- Shore Dr – General service
- County Rd - Disturbance

ROCHESTER
Log highlights Dec 10-Dec 16
- Negus Way – Well being check
- Cranberry Hwy – MV stop/citation
- Mattapoisett Rd – Suspicious activity
- New Bedford Rd – MV stop/citation
- Cushman Rd – Animal control
- Marys Pond Rd – MV stop/arrest
- North Ave – Animal control
- Ryder Rd – General services
- Featherbed Ln – Suspicious activity
- Marys Pond Rd – Burglar alarm
- Snipatuit Rd – Medical alarm
- Meadow Ln – Animal control
- Cranberry Hwy – Disabled MV
- Snipatuit Rd – Animal control
- Marys Pond Rd – MV stop/arrest
- New Bedford Rd – Animal rescue
- Walnut Plain Rd – MV complaint
- Pierce St – Illegal dumping
- Snipatuit Rd – Hazmat spill
- Boxturtle Dr – CO alarm
- Bowens Ln – Road hazard
- Marion Rd – Burglar alarm
- Robinson Rd – Assist other agency
- County Rd – Animal control
- Vaughn Hill Rd – Erratic MV
- North Ave – MV stop/citation
- Braley Hill Rd – MV stop/towed
- Cranberry Hwy – MV stop/towed
- Dexter Ln – General services

For a full PDF of the three towns' police logs from the past week, including arrest reports, visit www.Wanderer.com.

Super Crossword

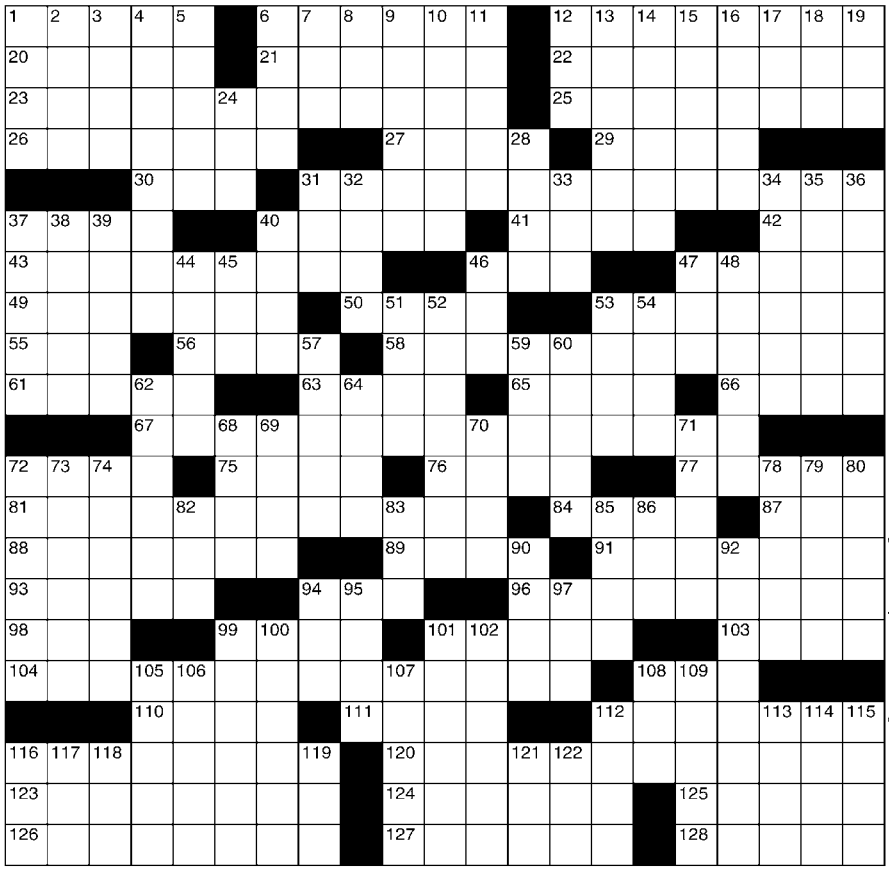
LOVE OF SOLVING

ACROSS

1 Picked instrument
6 Type of small grocery store
12 Blobby light source
20 Viva voce
21 Spoil, as "my parade"
22 Roast joke
23 Like baggy clothes
25 Winter wreath ornament
26 Gave away temporarily
27 Money, informally
29 Jagger of the Stones
30 "Raggedy" doll
31 Monty Python tune about a logger
37 Addams who created Morticia
40 Quick attack
41 Cover girl Macpherson
42 "— gratia" ("by the grace of God")
43 Dwell in the company of
46 Outer: Prefix
47 "— the Night" (2007 Joaquin Phoenix film)
49 Had to admit a goof-up
50 "Behold!," to Caesar
53 Totally bummed out
55 Stuff in a sty
56 Avian hooters
58 Texas banner
61 Big twitch
63 Safari sight
65 Envoy's asset
66 "There — comparison"
67 Chinese black tea with a smoky flavor
72 Anita of jazz
75 Env. notice
76 Estrada of TV
77 Ones staring
81 Best Actress winner for "The Farmer's Daughter"
84 Grammy winner Bareilles
87 "And how!"
88 German city on the Elbe
89 With 115-Down, "Piece of cake!"
91 Web page
93 Slacks
94 Extra charge
96 Pea-souper in England
98 Anticavity gp.
99 Supreme Norse god
101 "I love you," to Luisa
103 Jane in an 1847 novel
104 Go bankrupt, say
108 Del.-to-Vt. direction
110 Bakery treats
111 Snootiness
112 Noisy tigers
116 Cite famous people as friends
120 Method for calculating a quotient ... or what occurs eight times in this puzzle?
123 Accepted, as conditions
124 Made flush
125 Maggot, e.g.
126 Sailor's dining place
127 Shows as an "encore"
128 Clifflike

DOWN

1 Tennis need
2 Skin soother
3 Lunch hour
4 "Be right there"
5 Classic theater
6 Liverpool or Leeds native
7 Horse bit
8 Morse bit
9 Conundrum
10 Of yore
11 Trig measure
12 Slice (off)
13 Zoo attraction
14 Gondola city
15 Smart — (cocky sort)
16 Guitar riffs
17 Year, in Brazil
18 Roughly half of all adults
19 Beginning to mature?
24 Amusement
28 Frightful dino
31 Chilling Chaney
32 Strong desire
33 "Selena" actress, to her fans
34 Nonalcoholic beer brand
35 Georgia city near Atlanta
36 Ornamental street tree
37 Bivalve mollusks
38 Ask for moola
39 Brand of skin care and cosmetics
40 Turkey, e.g.
44 Pleasant odor
45 Do some yard maintenance
46 Poet's twilight
47 Major battle
48 Crude model of a despised person
51 Choke up
52 Give the OK
53 Strong desire
54 Big mil. alliance
57 Dull, dark bluish-gray
59 Decorative sewing case
60 Burlap bags
62 Most cunning
64 — uncertain terms
68 Pricey liver spread
69 Superhero creator Lee
70 Agcys., e.g.
71 "Nifty!"
72 Chum from way back
73 El — (treasure city)
74 Vying venues
78 Uplift
79 Whirlybird blade
80 Drawn-out battle
82 Six-pt. scores
83 Driver's 180
85 Year, to Caesar
86 Garnet, e.g.
90 Ladd of "Shane"
92 Shows lip-curling contempt
94 Holiday tree
95 "Orinoco Flow" vocalist
97 Texter's "I'm shocked!"
99 Carry to excess
100 Spanish explorer Hernando
101 Grew vigorously, old-style
102 Former Disney exec Michael
105 Sword types
106 Duck type
107 Mosaic maker
108 Autumn mo.
109 Manicurists file them
112 Divests (of)
113 Ireland, in Ireland
114 Be a drifter
115 See 89-Across
116 "Rambo" setting, briefly
117 Era or eon
118 "— Doubtfire"
119 Fluffy lap dog, for short
121 Safari sight
122 Safari sight



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SALOME'S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) At this time, you might want to resist that otherwise admirable Aries penchant for getting to the heart of a matter quickly. Keep in mind that a delicate situation calls for patience.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your aspects favor more diplomacy and fewer direct confrontations when dealing with a relationship problem. Avoiding hurt feelings can help in your search for the truth.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Positive aspects are strong this week. Although you still might have to deal with some problems caused by a recent period of turmoil, you are making progress, and that's what counts.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A family matter could benefit from your counsel. But don't bring yourself into it unless you're invited, and don't stay if you feel uneasy. Just remember to reassure one and all that you'll be there for them.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) As the truth about an ongoing situation emerges, you could find that you were right to defer judgment before you had all the facts. Now would be a good time to move on to other matters.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your plans to take control of a personal situation because you feel the most qualified could create resentment. It's best to hear what everyone else involved in the matter has to say about it first.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Uncovering some surprising background facts about that ongoing personal matter could make you reconsider the extent of your involvement. A neutral family member offers advice.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Religious or spiritual themes start to dominate your aspect this week. This can serve as a counterweight to the mounting effects of the season's growing commercialization.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Taking on that recent challenge impressed a lot of important decision-makers. Meanwhile, proceed with your holiday plans, and don't forget to include you-know-who in them.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Disagreeing with an opinion that you can't accept could be dicey, and your motives might be questioned. It's better to wait to mount a challenge until you have support for your position.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Getting involved in helping others during this increasingly hectic period makes the generous Aquarian feel good. You could also gain a more substantive benefit from your actions.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The Piscean way of thinking clearly and objectively helps you resolve a complex situation without creating any ill will. Don't be surprised if your counsel is requested on another matter.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of persuading people to look at the positive possibilities that make up for any hard choices they might face.

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Fantasia. It can be viewed at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library from **January 2 to 31**. Chuck considers himself an abstract surrealist although he creates landscapes and portraits as well. His acrylics are based on various themes such as emotions, states of mind, and identity. He feels his imagination and passion lead him to producing canvases the audience can be wowed by and appreciative of. Free and open to all.

Great Decisions Program

The Mattapoisett Woman's Club is offering their Great Decisions 2024 Program. The program begins on **January 17**, the third Wednesday for eight consecutive weeks, ending Wednesday **March 6**, and 2024. The program meets from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at The Mattapoisett Public Free Library, on 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett, MA, downstairs in the Community Room. Please enter at the side door where there is accessibility with an elevator. The topics are very current and full of global affairs based on international issues. We watch a 20 minute DVD session that corresponds with the reading.

Some of the topics include US & China trade rivalry, Climate Technology and competition and NATO's future.

The program is open to all community members on a first come basis. The Zoom platform is also available.

To register: Please send a check for $40.00. Mattapoisett Woman's Club Box1444 Mattapoisett MA 02739 Attn: Treasurer (memo on check Great Decisions) on a separate paper please print with your Name, Address, Email address, Phone Number (both landline and cell # if available) for the records.

Thank you for your interest in our organization.

Mariner Youth Soccer

The Mariner Youth Soccer Association's Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, **January 30** at 7:00 pm at the Fairhaven Council on Aging located at 229 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven,

All members are welcome to attend. Any questions should be addressed to: Angela Dawicki, Secretary, angela@marineryouthsoccer.onmicrosoft.com

Call for Entries - Winter Members' Show

The Marion Art Center announces a call for entries for its annual Winter Members' Show. All MAC members are invited to enter up to two pieces each. All works must be original, must have been executed by the artist within the last five years, and must not have been previously shown at the Marion Art Center. The MAC will not exhibit works that are in poor condition (including frame) or are not properly prepared for installation.

To exhibit, members should drop off artwork to the MAC at 80 Pleasant Street, Marion, on Saturday, **January 6** between 10 am-2 pm or Tuesday, **January 9** between 10 am-4 pm. Artists can download and print the consignment agreement ahead of time, found online at marionartcenter.org/on-exhibit. Anyone wishing to participate who is not yet a member can join the MAC online at marionartcenter.org/join. To request an email copy of the contract or submit questions, email info@marionartcenter.org. Show Dates are **January 13 – February 23**, with an opening reception scheduled on Saturday, **January 13** from 3- 5 pm.

Happy Holidays!

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Elizabeth Taber Library

At the monthly Friends of the Elizabeth Taber Library meeting, held on Wednesday, **December 13**, the Elizabeth Taber Library – in conjunction with the Trustees of the Library and the Friends of the ETL – presented Nita

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TriTown Happenings

The Old Rochester/Fairhaven co-op high school hockey team handily defeated a young Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech squad on December 14 at Tabor Academy. Photos by Mick Colageo

Forty students from preschool to high school shared their version of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and "The Nativity Story" to a packed church on December 17 at the St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church 2nd Annual Christmas Pageant. They shared the true meaning of Christmas with music, joy and fun for everyone present! An offering was collected to raise money for the Youth Group Mission Trip to the Navajo Nation, New Mexico, planned for June 2024. Photo courtesy Tanya Ambrosi

The Sippican Festival Band performed at the AHA! Night community arts and entertainment event held on December 14 in New Bedford. The band is comprised of 70 fifth- and sixth-grade students, led by Instrumental Music Teacher Hannah Moore. Photos courtesy ORR District

From left, Old Rochester Regional High School seniors Kamryn Rodrigues, Elizabeth Harrington, Cole Goldie and Sara Costa were among approximately 75 students who attended ORR's National Honor Society's Trivia Night on December 7. Photos courtesy ORR District

These photos and more are available online at www.wanderer.com

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Howland with flowers, a gift certificate, and a special library cart. The library cart, a fetching purple color, will be used by the staff and the community within the library. On the cart, a plaque reads: "Dedicated in recognition of Nita Howland for her years of service in support of the Elizabeth Taber Library."

For 28 years, Nita Howland organized volunteers and other members of the community, to run the annual Summer Book Sale. The Elizabeth Taber Library staff and stewards of the library are forever grateful for all the time and energy Nita Howland put into the annual Summer Book Sale events.

The Showstoppers

The Showstoppers Community-Service singing troupe will hold their final performance of the season at the Music Hall in Marion at 164 Front Street on Wednesday, **December 27** at 6:30 pm.

Open to the public, the show will feature songs they've been performing all month long at various nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and hospitals, fulfilling their mission of bringing live musical entertainment to those who may not have access otherwise. The show will also include the selections they performed with the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra at their Holiday Pops concerts earlier this month.

In addition to performances by their 21 current troupe members who range in age from 7 to 18, this show will also feature graduates of their program from the last 5 years, who are being honored for their years of service, as well as a tribute to their beloved troupe member, Nolan Gibbons, who passed away unexpectedly in 2020 at the

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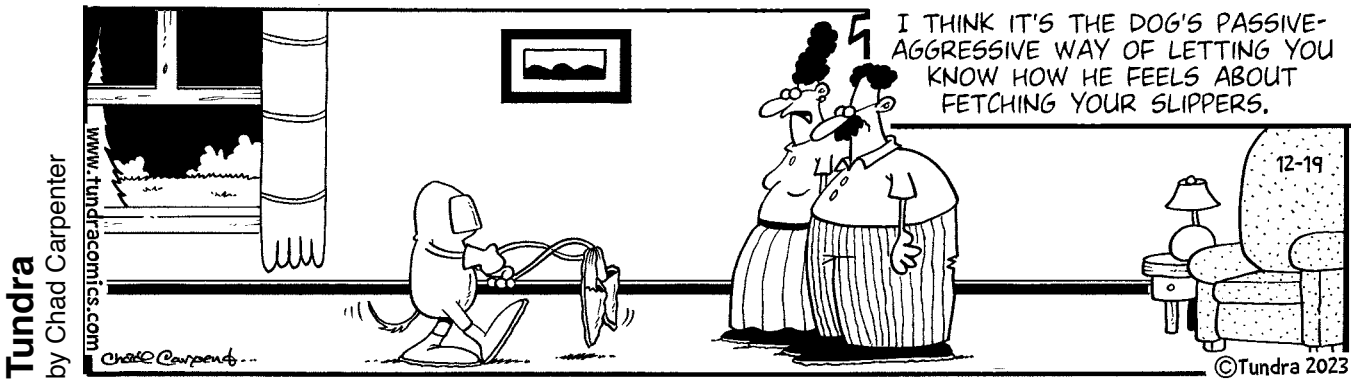
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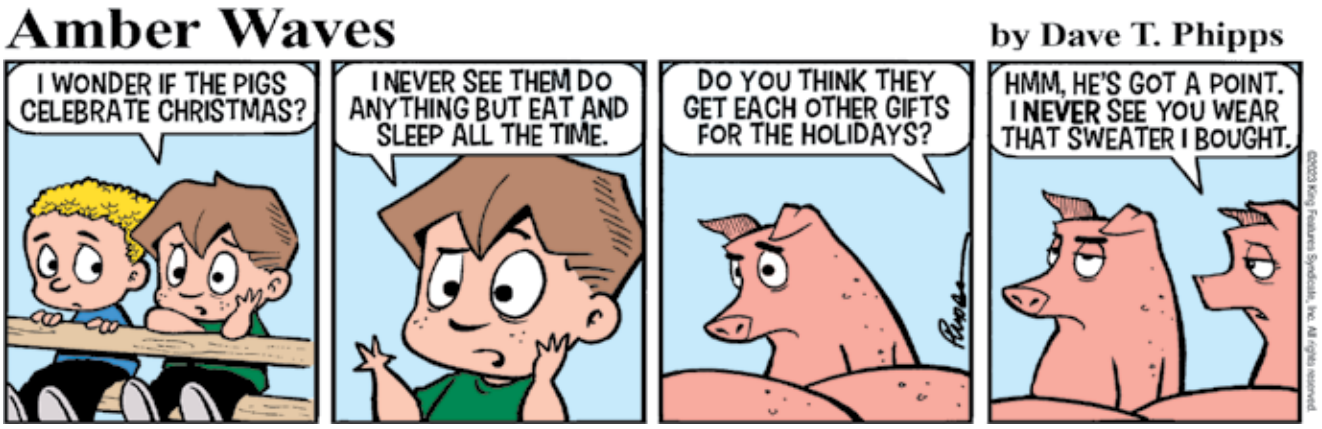

Amber Waves
by Dave T. Phipps
I WONDER IF THE PIGS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?
I NEVER SEE THEM DO ANYTHING BUT EAT AND SLEEP ALL THE TIME.
DO YOU THINK THEY GET EACH OTHER GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS?
HMM, HE'S GOT A POINT. I NEVER SEE YOU WEAR THAT SWEATER I BOUGHT.

young age of 15.

Admission is free, but donations to this volunteer-run 501(c)3 organization will be gladly accepted. For more information, follow them at www.facebook.com/showstopppers.us or email showstoppersme@gmail.com.

Local Awardees of Community Compact It Grants

Rep. Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett) is pleased to announce that Fairhaven, Marion and Mattapoisett have been selected to receive Community Compact IT Grants for FY24 from the Healey-Driscoll Administration.

In the largest of the local grants, Fairhaven will receive $150,000 for the implementation of a records management system along with Marion which will receive $135,000 for the same purpose. Mattapoisett will receive $132,479 for disaster recovery enhancements.

The Community Compact IT Grant Program is a competitive grant program aimed at driving innovation at the local level through investments in technology. These grants help support the implementation of innovative and transformative IT projects by funding one-time capital needs, to eligible municipalities, for technology infrastructure and purchases of equipment or software.

Rep Straus added, "I applaud the Healey-Driscoll administration for recognizing the value of these grant requests, along with the towns who put great effort into their respective applications. These grants are vital to making our local governments more efficient and helping to meet the needs of their residents."

MAC Theater Auditions - Arsenic & Old Lace

The Marion Art Center announces open auditions for the classic Arsenic & Old Lace on Saturday, **January 6**, 10:00 am-12:00 pm and Sunday, **January 7**, 12:00-2:00 pm. The play, written by Joseph Kesserling, will be directed by Donn Tyler. There are nine performance dates scheduled **March 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24**. Evening shows begin at 7:30 pm, while Sunday matinees begin at 2:00 pm.

Synopsis: Drama critic Mortimer Brewster's engagement announcement is upended when he discovers a corpse in his elderly aunts' window seat. Mortimer rushes to tell Abby and Martha before they stumble upon the body themselves, only to learn that the two old women aren't just aware of the dead man in their parlor, they killed him. Between his aunts' penchant for poisoning wine, a brother who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt and another brother using plastic surgery to hide from the police — not to mention Mortimer's own hesitancy about marriage — it'll be a miracle if Mortimer makes it to his wedding. Arsenic and Old Lace is a classic black comedy about the only thing more deadly than poison: family.

View all character details and more information, and download sides (script samples), online at marionartcenter.org/auditions. Questions can be addressed to tyler.donn@gmail.com.

Intro to Acting & Theatre Workshops at the MAC

The Marion Art Center with Watermelon Alligator Theatre Company, and Instructors Garrett Olson and Jess Wilson, present a series of theater workshops including a free informational session on Saturday, **January 20**. Cost for each session is $40 for MAC members and $50 for nonmembers, and those enrolling in all three paid sessions receive 10% off registration. The fourth and final session is free and open to all. A foul weather date is February 10. See all details and register online

LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING #1201

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on the petition of Highland Development Ventures, for property located at 0 Cranberry Highway/Off County Rd, identified on Assessor's Map 17, Lot 41C7, who is seeking a Variance for the maximum floor area ratio of 70% allowed under Chapter 20.20, Section B of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws.

The public hearing will be on January 11, 2024, at 7:15 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way in Rochester, MA.

David Arancio, Chairman 12/21, 12/28

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mattapoisett Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Mattapoisett Town Hall on a Request for a Determination of Applicability submitted by John M. & Tricia O'Reilly.

The meeting will also be a hybrid meeting. Please contact the Conservation Commission for the Zoom information.

The Applicants propose to remove and replace a paved driveway with a crushed stone driveway, to expand the driveway to create three parking spaces and to demolish a shed. All work to be performed within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, Flood Zone AE (EI. 16).

The project is located at 6 Pearl Street and is further identified as Lot #234 on Mattapoisett Assessors Map #9. 12/21

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mattapoisett Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Mattapoisett Town Hall on a Notice of Intent submitted by Dennis Arsenault. The meeting will also be a hybrid meeting. Please contact the Conservation Commission for the Zoom information.

The Applicant requests a Post Construction Permit for the placement of trap rock at the bottom of the side-slopes of the fill for the roadway/common driveway which is outside the limits of work approved under DEP File No. 44-1311.

No actual work is proposed. The completed work was performed within a Bordering Vegetated Wetland, and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding.

The property is located at 14 Snow Fields Road which is further identified as Lot #26A on Assessors Map #28. 12/21

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mattapoisett Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Mattapoisett Town Hall on a Notice of Intent submitted by Arthur Harris Alden, III. The meeting will also be a hybrid meeting. Please contact the Conservation Commission for the Zoom information.

The Applicant proposes to construct a single-family dwelling and driveway, to install a sewage disposal system, well and underground utilities and to fill and grade.

The proposed work will be performed within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, Flood Zones AE (El. 14, 15 & 16) and VE (E1. 17) & within the 100 ft. Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

The property is located on Aucoot Road which is further identified as Lot #156 on Assessors Map #3. 12/21

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to M.G.L. 40A, §5, notice is hereby given that Rochester Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Rochester Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way, Rochester, MA 02770 to consider the following amendments to the Zoning Map and Rochester Zoning Bylaw:

• Revise the Cranberry Highway Smart Growth Overlay District to include a parcel located at 621 County Road, also known as Map 17 Lot 47 as shown on the revised Plan, dated December 7, 2023.

• Revise Chapter 21.60, to amend Section 3.0 Overlay District of the Rochester Zoning Bylaws, Cranberry Highway Smart Growth Overlay District.

Copies of the article are on file at the Rochester Town Hall Annex, 37 Marion Road during business hours.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81313218755
Meeting ID: 813 1321 8755
Or Call: 1 646 876 9923

Arnold Johnson, Chairman 12/21, 12/28

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Rochester Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way, Rochester, MA 02770, regarding a Special Permit for a Back Lot, filed by 15A Mendell Realty Trust, Alan Cervelli Trustee, 340 Rounseville Road, Rochester, MA 02770 for the property located on Mendell Road, identified on Assessor's Map 34, Lot 1 and depicted on a plan entitled, "Approval Not Required Plan of Land & Special Permit For a Back Lot Division Of Land, Mendell Road", dated December 5, 2023 and prepared by John. L. Libby Consulting, Inc., 24 Logan Street, New Bedford, MA 02740.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Rochester Town Hall Annex, 37 Marion Road, during business hours.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81313218755
Meeting ID: 813 1321 8755
Or Call: 1 646 876 9923

Arnold Johnson, Chairman 12/21, 12/28

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING #1202

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on the petition of Robert & Christine Thompson, for property located at 24 Bennett Rd, identified on Assessor's Map 44A, Lot 53, who is seeking:

• A Special Permit for the construction of an attached, second dwelling unit under Chapter 20.40, Section F.9, of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws.
• A Variance for the minimum lot size requirement under Chapter 20.40, Section F.9, of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws.
• A Variance for the minimum required lot frontage under Chapter 20.40, Section F.9, of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws.
• A Variance for the minimum required side setback under Chapter 20.40, Section D.1., of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws.

The public hearing will be on January 11, 2024, at 7:15 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way in Rochester, MA.

David Arancio, Chairman 12/21, 12/28

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
ROAD CLOSURE
PUBLIC NOTICE

Antassawamock Club, Inc. will close its private roads to public traffic on Thursday, December 28, 2023.

Board of Directors
Antassawamock Club, Inc.
Susan Chapman Moss, Secretary 12/21, 12/28

TOWN OF MARION
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CASE #817

The Marion Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at 6:30 pm on Thursday, January 11, 2024 in the conference room of the Marion Police Station, 550 Mill Street, on the application of John P. Kendall Trust, represented by Saltonstall Architects, for a Special Permit under sections 230-6.1 C(1) and 230.6.1 E(a) of the zoning by-law to allow for the demolition and reconstruction of an existing non-conforming residence.

The property, located at 39 Water Street, is further identified on Assessors' Plan 16 as Lot 173A.

Cynthia Callow, Chairperson 12/21, 12/28

TOWN OF MARION
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CASE #818

The Marion Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at 6:45 pm on Thursday, January 11, 2024 in the conference room of the Marion Police Station, 550 Mill Street, on the application of Johnson Family Investments LLC, represented by GAF Engineering, for a Variance from section 230-5.2(A) of the zoning by-law to allow for lot coverage to exceed 40% of ground area.

The property, located at 806 Mill Street, is further identified on Assessors' Plan 17 as Lots 12 and 15A.

Cynthia Callow, Chairperson 12/21, 12/28

OLD COLONY
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Names of Persons Appearing to be Owners of Checks Issued by Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School District Which Have Not Been Cashed and are Deemed Abandoned. Information about each check may be obtained by a person expressing an interest in the check by addressing an inquiry to:

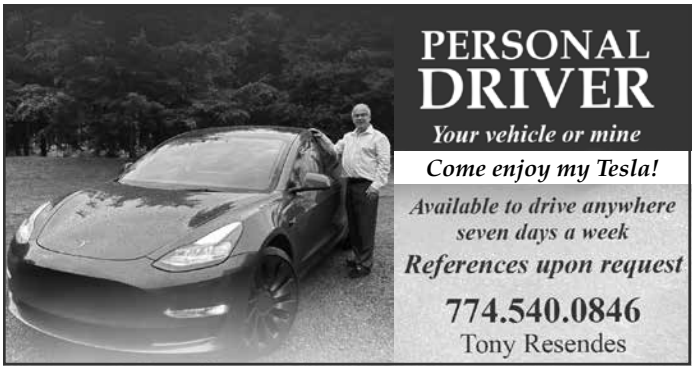
Kristie A. Costa, Treasurer
476 North Ave

at marionartcenter.org/events. Attend any or all of the following workshops:

Session One, 10 am-12 pm, Theatre Tips and Tricks: You Want to be in the Theatre but Not on Stage: Do you love theatre, but hate the spotlight? There are lots of ways to be involved besides appearing on stage. In this 2 hour informative workshop you will have a relaxed and casual conversation with experienced theatre professionals. From box office and front of house staff to backstage crew, from designers to marketers to scenic artists to hair & makeup… it takes a lot of people to create the shows you love to applaud. Join us for an introductory look at what goes on "behind the scenes." Workshop participants are encouraged to bring any and all questions regarding all aspects of theatre.

Session Two, 1 pm-3 pm, Theatre Tips and Tricks: You Think You Want to Try Acting: Have you dreamed of being in front of the camera, up on stage or standing in the spotlight? Not sure where to begin? In this 2 hour informative workshop you will get a very basic overview of the first steps, from theatre terms and the difference between stage and film acting to how to get started with headshots, monologues, best audition practices, stage etiquette and self-care. This workshop will be an informative and casual conversation with professional working actors. Join us for an introductory look at "What's next?" so you can turn your dream of acting into reality. Workshop participants are encouraged to bring any and all questions regarding acting.

Session Three, 3:30 pm-5:30 pm, The Actor As



Advocate: This fast paced, 2-hour master class in self-advocacy and consent-based practices, including intimacy and fight safety is designed to motivate the participants and encourage them to make themselves priority one. Actors need to be safe and confident to do their best work, whether on stage, film set or recording studio and having the tools to be their own best advocate is important. The focus of this workshop is to empower each person to advocate for themselves with confidence, flair and ease. Participants will be brought into an immediate discussion regarding the most common reasons why they may fear speaking up for themselves or others and how to address it head on. The instructors who will be leading the workshop are professional actors, directors, and teaching artists who have many years of experience as advocates for individuals, organizations, and social causes. This class is a fully inclusive experience for students of all levels of experience and abilities. Workshop participants

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ABIGAIL ORZECHOWSKI	FRAZIER, ANDREW	MAKOWSKI, SCOTT
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ADRIAN BAIRD	GAGNON, JESSICA	MARTINS, CINDY
ANABELA CORREIA	GARY DAYTON	MCGUIRE, ERICA
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BELANGER, VICTORIA	IMAN KHAIRALLAH	PEMBERTON, RUTH
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DONNELLY JR, TIMOTHY	LABRECQUE, DOUGLAS	TORIE MANNY
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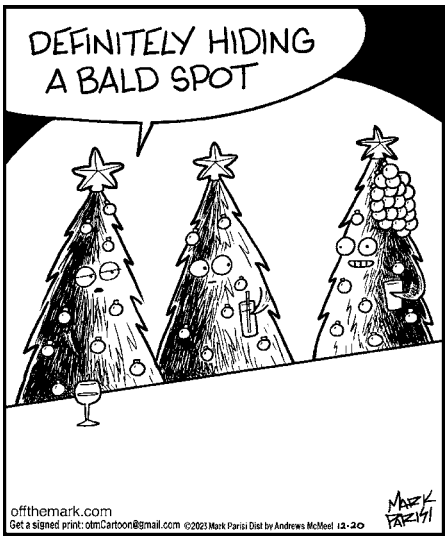

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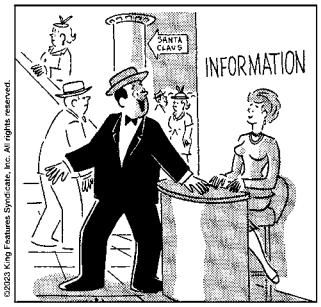

"What floor is the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ on?
And don't go away ...!

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Restrain
DREAMN

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DINNET

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GOLDE

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TODAY'S WORD

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		3		6				7
	6				9	3		
5			7				6	2
		6	5					1
1	8				4		7	
2				7		6		
3					6		1	
	4		3			2		
		7	9	5				8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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are encouraged to bring any and all questions.

Session Four: 6 pm-7 pm, Taste Of what's To Come (free and open to all. Advanced registration recommended): During this hour, Garrett and Jess will give a brief demonstration and synopsis of upcoming theater classes and workshops at the MAC.

From the Files of the Rochester Historical Society

By Connie Eshbach

I went to some of my most used sources to look for Rochester Christmas past. Abraham Holmes had nothing which is not a surprise given the Puritan influence in early New England. L.C. Humphrey made no mention of Christmas but that could be that no one asked him the right questions. Finally, I went to the Rochester Journals produced between 1999 and 2001 under the guidance of Librarian, Lucy Loomis.

The journals are the memories of some of the town's older residents and even they were short on Christmas recollections. In fact, the first mention I found was in an excerpt from the memoirs of J. Augustus Johnson who was born in Boston in 1836 and spent most of his early years in his mother's hometown of Rochester. He writes, "there were no Christmas trees or gifts at Christmas, except the simple things that Santa Claus put in our suspended stockings overnight".

He goes on to write that Rochester, as a Congregational town steered clear of any Christmas observances that smacked of Roman Catholicism.

Moving forward through the years little mention is made of Christmas in the various journals. However, in the 4th and last journal, one contributor wrote that when she was a child in the 1940s, there was little going on in

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Dropping Off Classified Advertisements: Ads can be dropped by our office at 55 County Road in Mattapoisett, Monday, Thurs, Fri -9am to 3pm; Tuesday 9am to noon

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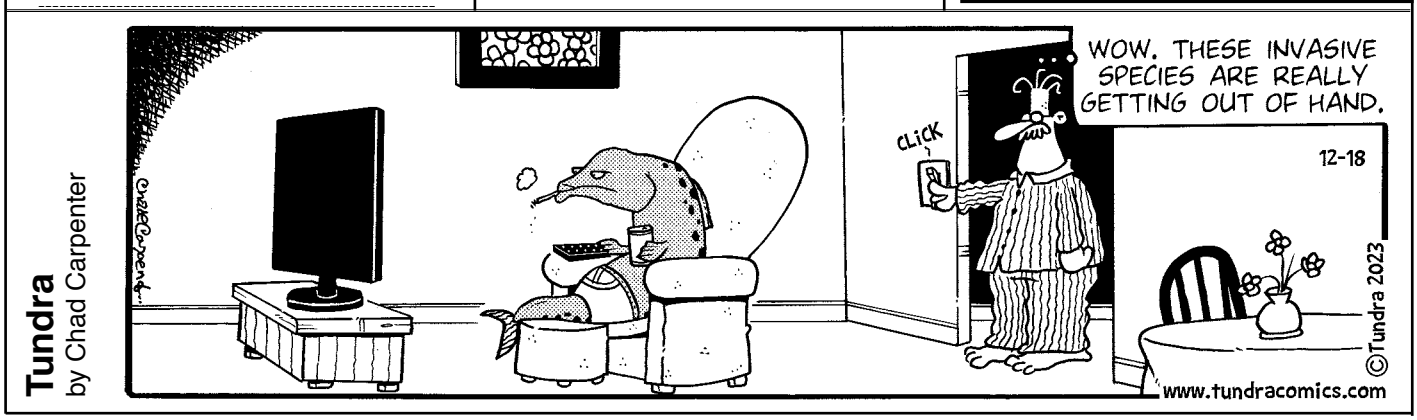

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town for any holiday. In her recollection, anyone who wanted to see Christmas decorations would have had to drive to the Taunton Green to view them.

Fortunately for today's residents, private home decorations abound and Rochester now celebrates with the lighting of the town tree in front of Town Hall and Santa's tour of the town courtesy of the Rochester Fire Department.

Upcoming Events at the Elizabeth Taber Library

The Library will be closed **December 24 to 26** in celebrations of Christmas.

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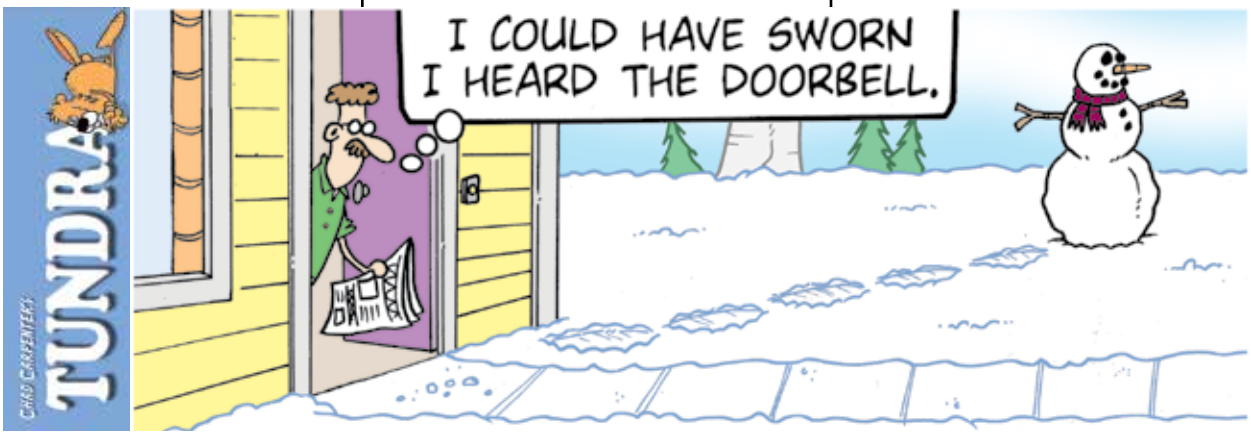
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Don't forget to wish these people a Happy Birthday!

Billy Osborne	December 21
Elvira Souza	December 21
Michael Cordeiro	December 21
Yasmin Vincent	December 21
Chaunte' L. Gibson	December 22
Elizabeth Milde	December 22
Holly Cardoza	December 22
Kristin Querim	December 22
Noelle Healy	December 22
Tessa Ripley	December 22
Victoria Wade	December 22
Aiden Day	December 23
Bob Ball	December 23
Chris Hiller	December 23
Ethan Cabral	December 23
Gladys Hartley	December 23
Judy Hagan	December 23
Palmer Clingman	December 23
Robert Ball	December 23
Robert L. Mogilnicki	December 23
Stacy Jones	December 23
Stephen Gouin	December 23
Brady G. Gracia	December 24
Carol Rego	December 24
Deborah Hartley	December 24
Emily Fauteux	December 24
Gavin O'Neil	December 24
Jenn Janicki	December 24
Nicole Martin	December 24
Paul M. Lestage	December 24
Zachary Mello	December 24
Barbara Lawrence	December 25
Bernadette Kelly	December 25
Holly A. Lestage	December 25
John Somers	December 25
Michael Robinson	December 25
Brendan Goss	December 26
Bridget Murphy	December 26
Dana Dexter	December 26
Eliza Van Voorhis	December 26
Sean Maloney	December 26
Tom Hagan	December 26
Tyler Mourao	December 26
Allison Kimball	December 27
Betsey Oldham	December 27
David Duchaine	December 27
Kate Hughes	December 27
Laurie Chiarito	December 27



Indoor Holiday Book Sale through **December 23**. Find great gifts for the whole family at our annual holiday book sale at the Elizabeth Taber Library. New books added everyday.

3D printed holiday ornament kits - available throughout December. Convert drawings into 3D printed holiday ornaments. Makes a unique holiday keepsake. Pick up a kit with instructions and materials and return your design to the library to be printed. View the website for more details.

A playable history of video games - Saturday **January 20** at the Marion Music Hall - Learn about the evolution of video game consoles and then play retro & modern games. A great time for all the gamers in the family.

For more information on the Elizabeth Taber Library, visit us at www.ElizabethTaberLibrary.org or call us at 508-748-1252.

Tinkhamtown Chapel Christmas Carol Sing-along

The Tinkhamtown Chapel Annual Christmas Carol Sing-along will take place on Saturday, **December 23** at 5:00 pm at the Tinkhamtown Chapel, Acushnet Road and Tinkham Lane. Join your friends and neighbors as we sing the classic carols in a 19th century chapel. Light refreshments will be served. Anyone wishing to take part by singing a solo or accompanying the group, or would like to contribute to the refreshments, please call Gail at 508-758-9559 or email peggsmom@gmail.com.

Christmas Day Swim

Please join us for a fun family tradition that helps those in need. Helping Hands and Hooves will host the 20th annual Christmas Day Swim at 11:00 am at Mattapoisett Town Beach.

Each swimmer is asked to donate $15 (payable on the day of the swim.) The first 75 swimmers will receive a festive long-sleeved T-shirt. 100% of the proceeds will benefit Helping Hands and Hooves - a 501c(3) non-profit based in Mattapoisett that is dedicated to providing therapeutic horseback riding lessons for adults with disabilities.

If you would like to learn more about Helping Hands and Hooves, please go to our website: helpinghandsandhooves.org. If you have any questions, please call Debbi Dyson at (508) 758-4717 or email info@helpinghandsandhooves.org.

Mattapoisett Cemetery and Memorials Advisory Committee

Mattapoisett's newly formed Cemetery and Memorials Advisory Committee has several areas of responsibility.

Acting in an advisory manner, the committee will assist the Select Board in matters related to the municipal

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Building patios, walkways, retaining walls, outdoor fire places, fire pits, yard work designing, Spring clean-up and Fall clean-up

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28 yr old male looking for either a 1BR or Studio apt.for rent in either Mattapoisett, Marion Rochester or Fairhaven. I work full time, am a non-smoker and have no pets. Call Adam at 339-933-1489.

ALEXA...Rake the leaves
if that doesn't work, try
Bob....Clean my yard.
and everything will "Fall" into place.
BOB'S LAWN SERVICE
774-263-4002 or 508-997-9259
Complete Fall yard clean-ups

Apartment For Rent
2 bedroom apt on private country road
Must like the woods. Heat, hot water & electric all included - $1850. No pets/no smoking
Must be able to shovel your own sidewalk
Call 508-951-6264 after 12:00

DUMP RUNS and MORE Any cleanup, yards, houses, attics, apts, etc. Oil tank and boiler removal call Cliff 508-472-8539

ARBOR TECH SERVICES
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Cabling, Stump Grinding,
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Fully insured. Free Estimates.
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flooring, decks, pergolas
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Cash for trucks & cars
Same day removal - foreign & domestic
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Cleaning By Solange
Reliable, trustworthy professional with references. My services include: daily, weekly, monthly, or one time cleaning. Please call (774) 360-1975

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Demers Construction Company
Licensed and Insured General Contractor
New Construction - Remodels - Additions - Decks
Siding - Windows - Doors - Kitchens
Email: Nathan@Demerscc.com
View our work at DemersCC.com or **Facebook.com/DemersCC**
Give us a call for a free estimate! **774.849.2325**

Thank you everyone for entrusting us with your homes! It has been a pleasure serving this community for the past 5 years and we look forward to the years to come!
From our family to yours; **Have a wonderful holiday and New Year!**
Best Wishes, **Nathan, Joe, and Rafael**

Electrician Eric Cordeiro for good work & reasonable prices, 24hr service, big & small jobs, will call back same day. 508-995-4496

Experienced home cleaning. Affordable rates, top to bottom cleaning and more!
Free estimates and references
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Specializing in Small Jobs 630-400-2525
Quality Work at a Reasonable Price
Kitchen & Bath Remodels, Windows, Siding, Doors & Decking

Four Room Professional Office
Avaialable January 1, 2024
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$1,950.00/mo, two year lease

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS
For Mattapoisett
Volunteers Urgently Needed
508-758-4110
FISH

The *Wanderer*

The Wanderer *is an independently owned and published weekly newspaper that is distributed to the public free of charge throughout Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and the surrounding communities.*

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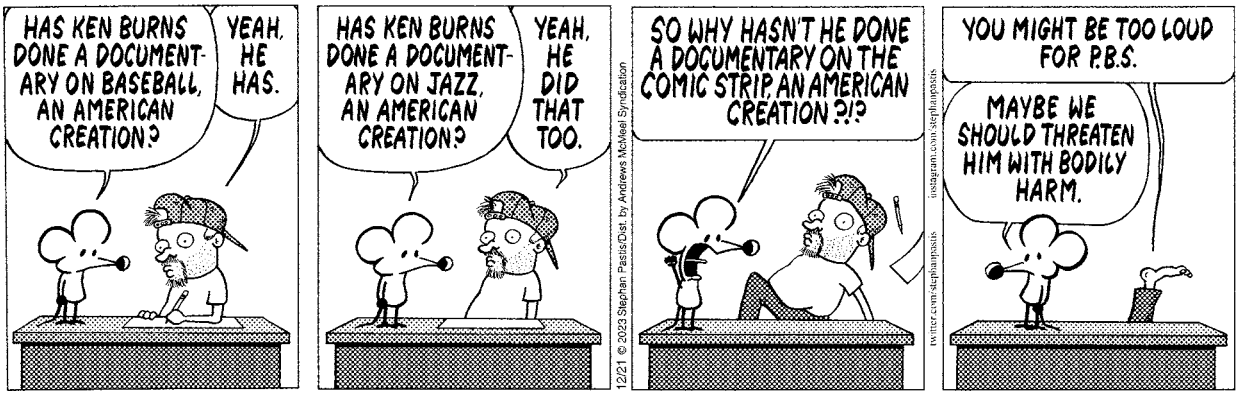
ISSN 1559-1212

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE
by Stephan Pastis



cemeteries Barlow and Hammond.

They will advise and assist in the coordination of memorial bricks and benches. New forms are available for the purchase of memorial bricks from Town Hall, the Library, or the Council on Aging.

They are also seeking information for the future recognition of all veterans, either buried or interned in Mattapoisett. The committee is working with the Sons of the American Revolution to establish a commemorative plaque naming those Patriots.

Expanding on the identification of all Veterans' graves, if you have information that can assist the committee, please contact Chairman Ray Hanks through the Select Board's office.

NEW CONSTRUCTION
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http://www.southcoastdc.com
cmm@southcoastdc.com
Christian McCullough / Michael Bichsel - Owners

Friends of the Mattapoisett Bicycle and Recreational Path

Friends of the Mattapoisett Bicycle and Recreational Path ask residents who are enjoying the Shining Tides Mile to consider the "bike path" in their year-end giving plans. We're now working with the Town on Phase 2 which will extend the Mattapoisett Rail Trail from Depot Street into the Park Street neighborhood and over to Marion. We've pledged a $50,000 contribution as the local match to a $200,000 MassTrails Grant which will finalize design for Phase 2A so that construction funding for a "shovel ready" project can be requested. We're ¼ of the way to our goal using the funds raised by the 2023 Tour de Crème. A generous donor is matching all contributions up to $2500.

Hopefully, people have read about the significant progress on the Marion Pathway. Friends' funding match of the last mile in Mattapoisett will keep the safe connection to Marion moving forward without pauses, creating protected road crossings of Route 6 and North Street. Learn more at our website www.mattapoisettrailtrail.org.

Contributions to the Friends can be mailed to PO Box 1336, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 or made through GoFundMe. All funds received will be used to support the completion of the path and path amenities. Thank you.

Mattapoisett Land Trust Merchandise

Do you have old Mattapoisett Land Trust merchandise laying around in a drawer somewhere? Well, we'd love to see a picture of it. If you have older, discontinued land trust merchandise, please snap a photo of it and email it to manager@mattlandtrust.org.

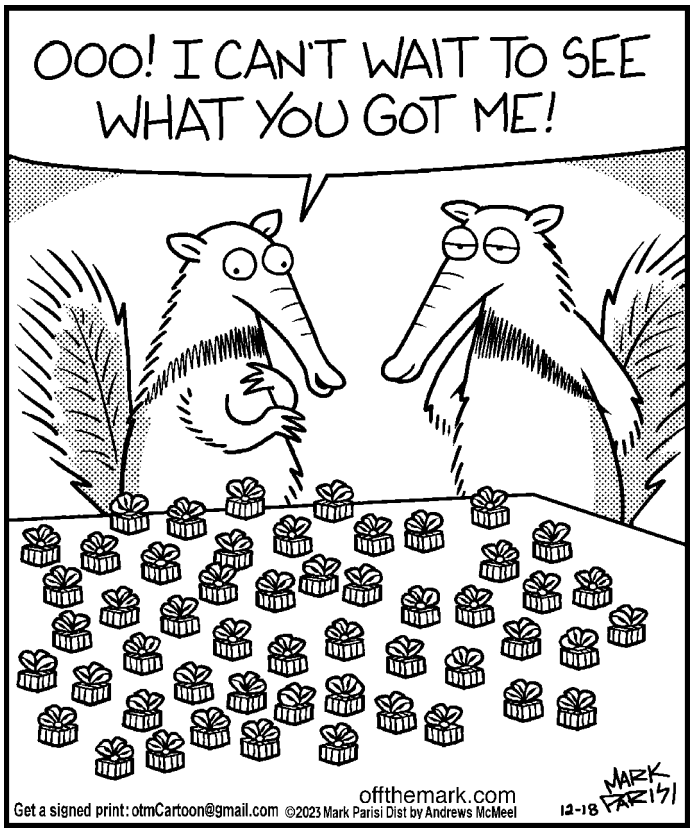
Mattapoisett Land Trust is preparing to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2024. With that will come exciting new designs for the T-shirts and hats that you always find at the land trust booth on Harbor Days. We'd love to see photos of your old favorite designs to help inspire us in designing some new merchandise.

Real Estate Transactions

See past listing on our website: www.wanderer.com

Buyer(s)	Seller(s)	Address	City	Date	Price
Oliveira, Ronald	St, Aubin Robert V By M	237 Hartley Rd	Rochester	11/29/2023	275,000.00
Snoopy Holdings LLC	Bocchino, Rebecca Fine TR Fine, Joshua TR Alan, Fine Personal RT II Susan, Fine Personal RT II	20 Silver Shell Ave	Mattapoisett	11/29/2023	2,350,000.00
Brockwell, Christopher A Brockwell, Veronica	Downey, Matthew J TR Susan G Ford RT	11 Olde Sheepfield Rd	Marion	11/30/2023	875,000.00
Johnson Family Investments	Correia, Mikki L TR Morrison, Finnick C TR Correia Family IT	812 Mill St	Marion	11/30/2023	383,000.00
Orourke, Helen M	Micetich, Aaron M Micetich, Priscilla L	29 Stuart Rd	Rochester	11/30/2023	670,000.00
Richard, Nicholas D Richard, Sarah A	Harrison, James C Harrison, Marcia A	12 Forster Rd	Rochester	12/01/2023	731,000.00
3 Creek Street LLC	Gamache, Bruce C TR Gamache, Ann M TR Daniel J Sullivan RT	3 Creek St	Mattapoisett	12/01/2023	1,490,000.00
Antoni, John L Antoni, Carina S	Long Built Homes Inc	53 Clapp Rd	Rochester	12/04/2023	760,000.00

off the mark by Mark Parisi



Local Tides

Day	Date	High a.m.	High p.m.	Low a.m.	Low p.m.
Thursday	December 21	2:40	3:04	9:43	9:09
Friday	December 22	3:42	4:07	10:43	9:56
Saturday	December 23	4:43	5:07	11:34	10:40
Sunday	December 24	5:39	6:01		12:05
Monday	December 25	6:29	6:50	12:01	1:01
Tuesday	December 26	7:16	7:36	12:04	1:41
Wednesday	December 27	8:00	8:20	12:48	2:16
Thursday	December 28	8:43	9:03	1:34	2:49
Friday	December 29	9:24	9:47	2:19	3:21
Saturday	December 30	10:05	10:30	3:03	3:54
Sunday	December 31	10:45	11:14	3:46	4:29:00
Monday	January 1	11:25	11:58	4:30	5:04
Tuesday	January 2		12:04	5:17	5:44
Wednesday	January 3	12:40	12:45	6:14	6:30
Thursday	January 4	1:22	1:29	7:24	7:22
Friday	January 5	2:07	2:19	8:40	8:17
Saturday	January 6	2:58	3:18	9:45	9:13
Sunday	January 7	3:57	4:22	10:37	10:06

Phases of the Moon		
	Full Moon	December 26th
	Last Quarter	January 3rd
	New Moon	Janusry 11th
	First Quarter	January 17th

I Found the Aardvark!

Each week, hidden somewhere in the pages of *The Wanderer* is a tiny drawing of an aardvark. The little guy you are looking for looks exactly like the one pictured above (but don't put down this page as your answer, there's another one hidden somewhere in this issue).

Once you find the aardvark you can submit your answer on line and if you are right you will get Aardvark Points! You can then use these points to get cool Aardvark Prizes!

To enter visit: www.wanderer.com and Click on ***I Found the Aardvark***

In the December 14, 2023 edition the Aardvark was on page 28

PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Answers

B	A	N	J	O		B	O	D	E	G	A		L	A	V	A	L	A	M	P
A	L	O	U	D		R	A	I	N	O	N		O	N	E	L	I	N	E	R
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			A	N	N		L	U	M	B	E	R	J	A	C	K	S	O	N	G
C	H	A	S			F	O	R	A	Y		E	L	L	E			D	E	I
L	I	V	E	A	M	O	N	G			E	X	O			W	E	O	W	N
A	T	E	C	R	O	W		E	C	C	E			I	N	A	F	U	N	K
M	U	D		O	W	L	S		L	O	N	E	S	T	A	R	F	L	A	G
S	P	A	S	M			L	I	O	N		T	A	C	T		I	S	N	O
			L	A	P	S	A	N	G	S	O	U	C	H	O	N	G			
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A	G	R	E	E	D	T	O		E	V	E	N	E	D		L	A	R	V	A
M	E	S	S	R	O	O	M		R	E	R	U	N	S		S	T	E	E	P

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Remand 2. Intend;
3. Lodge; 4. Attest

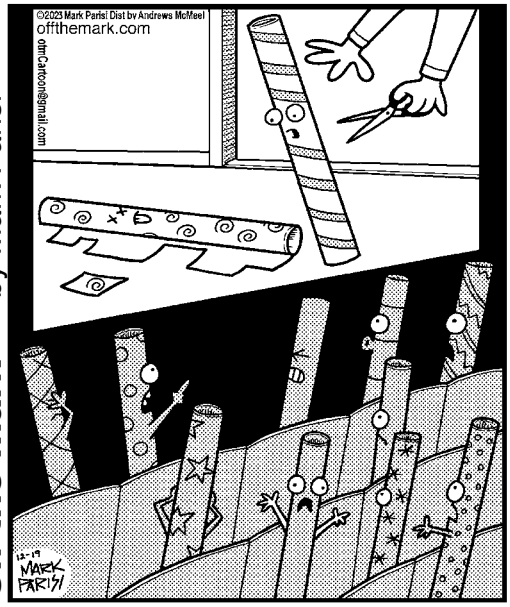
Today's Word

MISTLETOE

Sudoku Answer

8	2	3	1	6	5	9	4	7
7	6	1	2	4	9	3	8	5
5	9	4	7	3	8	1	6	2
4	7	6	5	9	3	8	2	1
1	8	9	6	2	4	5	7	3
2	3	5	8	7	1	6	9	4
3	5	2	4	8	6	7	1	9
9	4	8	3	1	7	2	5	6
6	1	7	9	5	2	4	3	8

off the mark by Mark Parisi



Friends' marketplace

at PLUMB CORNER

SALE EFFECTIVE:
Friday, December 22 — Thursday, December 28, 2023

565 Rounseville Road • Rochester, MA 02770
Phone: 508.763.5333

Open Daily: 7am–8pm

Grocery, Dairy, & Frozen

Martinelli's
25.4 oz. Non-Alcoholic
Sparkling Cider
$3.49 Plus Dep

Ocean Spray
64 oz. Selected
Cranberry Drinks **$3.99**

New England Coffee
9-12 oz. Selected
Coffee **$6.99**

Newman's Own - 16 oz. Selected
Salsa ..... **2/$7**

Cholula - 5 oz. Selected
Hot Sauce **$3.49**

Green Mountain Gringo
8 oz. Original
Tortilla Strips **$2.59**

Green Mountain Gringo
16 oz. Selected
Salsa **$4.99**

Port City - 8 oz. Selected
Pretzels **$3.69**

Cheez-It - 12.4 oz. Original
Crackers **$3.99**

Friendly's
48 oz. Selected
(Excludes Pistachio)
Ice Cream
$4.99

Carr's - 4.25 oz. Selected
Crackers **$3.99**

Planters - 16 oz. Selected
Peanuts ..... **2/$6**

Newman's Own
9.6 oz. Selected
Microwave Popcorn **$2.59**

Cabot
6-8 oz. Selected (Excludes Cuts)
Cheese Bars ..... **2/$5**

Philadelphia - 8 oz. Bar Selected
Cream Cheese **$4.39**

Tillamook
1.5 Quart Selected
Ice Cream **$5.99**

Wine

Truchard
750 ml California
Chardonnay
Wine
$32.99
Reg. Price: $34.99

Bakery

Friends'
Fresh Baked, 16 oz. Pkg. Selected
Cookies **$4.99**

8 oz. Pkg.
Black & White
Cookies **$4.99**

Self-Serve Drinks Bar

Featuring MA based Fogbuster hot coffee & cold drinks on tap including:

- Organic juices
- Nitro brew coffee
- Cold brew coffee
- Unsweetened iced tea
- Hot Chocolate also available!

Meat, Deli, Prepared Foods & Cheese

Friends'
Premium Certified
Black Angus
Boneless
Ribeye Roast
$16.99 lb

Fresh
Baby Back Pork Spare Ribs
$4.99 lb

Boar's Head - 6 oz. Pouch
Pepperoni **$3.49**

Boar's Head - 8 oz. Pkg.
Feta Cheese **$4.99**

Boar's Head - London Broil
Roast Beef ..... **$15.99** lb

Boar's Head - Vermont
Cheddar Cheese ..... **$7.99** lb

North Coast Naked Shrimp
7 oz. Pkg. (4 oz. Sauce)
Shrimp Ring **$10.99**

Store Made
Four Bean Salad ..... **$5.99** lb

Allen's
Rotisserie Chicken ..... **$9.99** ea

President - 8 oz. Pkg. Selected
Pub Cheese **$5.99**

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!

Why wait in line when you can order ahead online! Download the Chow Now app, order and pay online, and skip the line!

ChowNow

Check our new selections of **Local & Craft Beer, Cider & Wine!**

Visit our new website! www.friendsplumbcorner.com

Friends' marketplace

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS *from all of us at Friends' Marketplace!*

Visit our website: www.friendsplumbcorner.com

565 Rounseville Rd.
Rochester, MA 02770
Phone: 508.763.5333

Christmas Eve: 7am-5pm
Christmas Day: Closed

Open Daily: 7am–8pm at PLUMB CORNER

We reserve the right to limit quantities & correct typographical errors. Illustrations are for design purposes only. Items are while supplies last and no rain checks. Due to current market conditions, item retails may change and products may become unavailable unexpectedly.

SALE EFFECTIVE: Friday, December 22 — Thursday, December 28, 2023

BLOCKBUSTER SAVINGS!

Friends' Premium Certified Black Angus. Bone-In **Rib Roast** $14.99 lb

Friends' Store Baked **Ham** $8.99 lb

Frey 750 ml California Zinfandel **Biodynamic Wine** $18.99 Reg. Price: $19.99

General Mills 8.9-12 oz. Cocoa Puffs, Kix, Original or Honey Nut Cheerios, Lucky Charms, or Cinnamon Toast Crunch **Cereal** $3.99

Cabot 16 oz. Selected **Butter Quarters** $4.99

Hood 48 oz. Selected **Ice Cream** $3.99

Quality Produce

Pint Blueberries	$4.99
Driscoll's - 6 oz. Pkg. Blackberries or Raspberries	$3.99
Carlson Orchards Half Gallon, Locally Produced Apple Cider	$3.99
Crisp Broccoli Crowns	$1.99 lb
Bunch Celery	$1.99 ea
Make Guacamole! Avocados	3/$4

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!